CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

TUESDAY ▸ MAY 26, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 311 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

P12 Sangakkara urges aggressive RR approach against SRH

P11 Rajasthan key to India's critical mineral demand

P9 Iran-US play down hopes for imminent breakthrough in war

IBC WORLD NEWS CH ABC Certified English Daily

www.ibcworldnews.com BENGALURU ▸ HUBBALLI ▸ MANGALURU ▸ MYSURU ▸ KALABURAGI cityhilights.news@gmail.com

K'taka launches 108 Command Centre for emergency care

Advanced ambulance network aims to deliver quicker, lifesaving healthcare statewide

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday inaugurated the 108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre at Basaveshwaranagar, marking a major step in strengthening Karnataka's emergency healthcare infrastructure.

Launched by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the state-of-the-art facility will coordinate ambulance services across Karnataka and ensure faster response times during medical emergencies.

Addressing the gathering, Siddaramaiah said Karnataka has become the first state in the country to establish a dedicated 108 Arogya Kavacha Centralised Command and Control Centre, enabling real-time monitoring and management of emergency ambulance services.

"Quality healthcare services provided by the government will enhance public trust and ensure timely treatment reaches every citizen.

Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Chief Minister

The Chief Minister said the new system, announced in the 2025-26 Budget, would make emergency healthcare more efficient and accessible. He stressed that quality treatment and prompt medical intervention are essential to building public confidence in government hospitals.

Highlighting the importance of the "golden hour" following accidents, cardiac emergencies and childbirth complications, Siddaramaiah noted that nearly 80 per cent of patients who received treatment during this critical period survived. He said Bengaluru currently operates between 65 and 70 ambulances, which play a vital role in saving lives. The Chief Minister added that the government now has greater accountability as the ambulance network is functioning under its direct supervision.

Why the golden hour matters

The "golden hour" refers to the first hour after a serious accident or medical emergency. Doctors say immediate treatment during this period significantly improves survival chances and reduces complications. Karnataka's new command centre aims to connect patients, ambulances and hospitals faster, ensuring critical care reaches those in need without delay.

108 AROGYA KAVACHA AT A GLANCE

- First-of-its-kind centralised command centre in India
- Covers all districts across Karnataka
- 108 ambulance service operating for nearly 18 years
- 65–70 ambulances currently serving Bengaluru
- Focus on rapid response during the "golden hour"

Fuel prices rise again as cumulative hike nears ₹7.5/ltr

NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked again on Monday, with state-owned fuel retailers increasing rates by Rs 2.61 and Rs 2.71 per litre respectively, marking the fourth revision in less than two weeks.

The latest increase has pushed the cumulative rise in fuel prices since May 15 to nearly Rs 7.5 per litre, sparking concerns over inflation and higher transportation costs across sectors.

Following the revision, petrol in Delhi now costs Rs 102.12 per litre, up from Rs 99.51, while diesel has risen to Rs 95.20 from Rs 92.49. Similar increases were recorded across major cities, with local taxes accounting for variations in retail prices.

In Mumbai, petrol is priced at Rs 111.21 per litre and diesel at Rs 97.83. Kolkata recorded petrol at Rs 113.51 and diesel at Rs 99.82, while Chennai saw rates climb to Rs 107.77 and Rs 99.55 respectively.

FUEL PRICE HIKES IN MAY 2026

PRICE REVISIONS SINCE MAY 15

DATE	PETROL	DIESEL
May 15	+Rs 3.00	+Rs 3.00
May 19	+Rs 0.90	+Rs 0.90
May 23	+Rs 0.87	+Rs 0.91
May 25	+Rs 2.61	+Rs 2.71

Total Increase

- Petrol: Rs 7.38/litre
- Diesel: Rs 7.52/litre

Impact Areas

- Public transport fares
- Goods transportation costs
- Food and essential commodity prices
- Industrial logistics expenses
- Household budgets and inflation trends

Fuel prices had remained unchanged for an extended period before revisions resumed on May 15, when petrol and diesel rates were raised by Rs 3 per litre each. Subsequent hikes followed on May 19 and May 23.

Industry experts attributed the latest increase to rising global crude oil prices, tighter refining margins and a weaker rupee, which have significantly increased import costs. Global crude prices have surged amid tensions in West Asia and disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key global oil route.

The fresh hike takes fuel prices to their highest levels since May 2022, adding pressure on households and businesses alike.

Opposition slams fuel price hikes, seeks immediate rollback

NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Monday launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led Union government following the fourth increase in petrol and diesel prices within ten days, demanding an immediate rollback and accusing the Centre of burdening citizens with rising fuel costs.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the government was "looting the public's earnings in instalments" and criticised it for not passing on the benefits of lower global crude prices to consumers in the past.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi also targeted the Centre, claiming that fuel prices were being raised gradually to reduce public backlash.

AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal urged the government to explore cheaper energy imports, while Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav used the issue to criticise the Centre's economic policies.

The government, however, defended the revisions.

President Murmu confers Padma Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan ceremony

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred several Padma awards at a Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognising distinguished contributions across arts, sports, public service and other fields.

Veteran actor Dharmendra was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan for his exceptional contribution to art. The honour was received by his wife and BJP MP Hema Malini. Renowned violinist N. Rajam also received the Padma Vibhushan for her pioneering work in Indian classical music.

Among the Padma Bhushan awardees were former Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and banker Uday Kotak. The President also honoured former parliamentarian Vijay Kumar Malhotra and advertising veteran Piyush Pandey posthumously.

Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur, actor Prosenjit Chatterjee, para-athlete Praveen Kumar and former CRPF Director General K. Vijay Kumar received the Padma Shri.

The ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan and other dignitaries.

Siddaramaiah to meet Congress high command amid leadership buzz

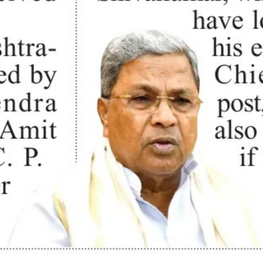
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday confirmed that he has been invited to New Delhi by the Congress high command for a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, amid growing speculation over a possible leadership change and Cabinet reshuffle in the state. Speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah said he was unaware of the agenda of the meeting.

"I am invited to Delhi. There is a meeting at 11 am. I do not know the subject. On Sunday night, K.C. Venugopal called and informed me about the meeting," he said.

The development comes days after the Congress government completed three years in office on May 20, triggering renewed discussions about a leadership transition and reconstitution of the Cabinet.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, whose supporters have long advocated his elevation to the Chief Minister's post, said he would also travel to Delhi if summoned by the party leadership.



Congress govt should cut VAT on fuel prices, says Ashoka

BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Monday urged the Karnataka government to reduce VAT on petrol and diesel, alleging that the State was earning nearly ₹6,000 crore in additional annual revenue from recent fuel price hikes.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka accused the Congress government of blaming the Centre while benefiting from increased tax collections. He claimed petrol prices in Karnataka were higher than in several other States because of the State's tax structure. He alleged that the extra revenue was being used to fund the government's guarantee schemes. Ashoka also criticised the State government over law-and-order issues, including the recent communal tension in Bhatkal.

"If the government genuinely wants to help people, it should reduce VAT and disclose the additional revenue it is earning from fuel sales."

R Ashoka, Opposition Leader

KSRTC WINS INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN GLOBE TIGERS AND NATIONAL MOBILITY AWARDS

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been honoured with two major recognitions — the International Golden Globe Tigers Awards–2026 in Malaysia and the Financial Express Mobility–2026 National Award — for excellence in training, transparency, and inclusive public transport innovation.

KSRTC received the Golden Globe Tigers Award in the category "Award for Excellence in Training" for its structured employee development initiatives and transparent recruitment practices. The corporation reported that nearly 18,600 employees underwent systematic training in the past year, strengthening operational efficiency and service quality. It also highlighted that its recruitment process, from application to deployment, has been fully standardised and made free from human intervention to ensure fairness and transparency. The award was presented on May 20, 2026, at the Pullman Kuala Lumpur City Centre Hotel & Residences in Malaysia.

In another recognition, KSRTC was conferred the Financial Express Mobility–2026 National Award for its "Dhwani Spandana" initiative, which focuses on accessibility for visually impaired passengers. Implemented in 200 Mysuru City Transport buses in collaboration with GIZ Germany, the system provides onboard bus identification and navigation support, significantly improving safety, independence, and travel confidence for visually impaired commuters.

JDS ORGANISATIONAL OVERHAUL

JDS appoints new office-bearers for B'luru unit

BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) on Monday announced a series of appointments to its Greater Bengaluru unit, naming presidents for various wings and key office-bearers as part of efforts to strengthen the party organisation ahead of upcoming elections in the city.

The appointments were made under the guidance of JDS State President and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. Appointment orders were handed over by JDS State Core Committee Chairman M. Krishnareddy and Greater Bengaluru JDS President H.M. Ramesh Gowda at a function held at the party headquarters, JP Bhavan.

Among the key appointments, Shaila Santoji Rao was named president of the Women's Wing, R. Samuel as Youth Janata Dal president, M. Gopal as Labour Wing president, P. Mahesh as Seva Dal president and Dr. M. Bharadwaj as president of the Medical Wing. Several other leaders were appointed to head the Scheduled Tribes, IT, Minority and Legal wings.

The party also announced appointments to the Greater Bengaluru committee. T.R. Tulasi Ram was appointed Working President, while S. Ramesh was named Chief General Secretary. A number of vice-presidents, senior vice-presidents and general secretaries were also inducted into the city unit.

Addressing the newly appointed office-bearers, party leaders said JDS National President and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had directed the organisation to intensify preparations for the forthcoming Bengaluru elections.

They urged office-bearers and party workers to strengthen the organisation at ward and booth levels and work with dedication to expand the party's base in the city. The leaders also called for effective implementation of organisational directives issued by the state leadership.

AIADMK rebels join TVK; Palaniswami, Stalin allege 'horse trading'

CHENNAI

Political tensions escalated in Tamil Nadu on Monday after three rebel AIADMK legislators resigned from their Assembly seats and joined the ruling TVK, prompting allegations of "horse trading" from both AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami and DMK president M. K. Stalin.

The MLAs — Maragadham Kumaravelu, Jeyakumar and Sathyabama — had earlier defied the AIADMK leadership by supporting the TVK government during the trust vote on May 13. On Monday, they submitted their resignations and formally joined the ruling party led by C. Joseph Vijay.

The move is expected to strengthen TVK's position in the 234-member Assembly.

Changing political equations

The resignation of three rebel AIADMK legislators has altered the political arithmetic in the Tamil Nadu Assembly and strengthened the ruling TVK's position. With TVK holding 107 seats and enjoying the support of 13 alliance MLAs, the party is moving closer to securing a majority on its own. The resignations have reduced AIADMK's strength from 47 to 44, further weakening the opposition party amid an ongoing internal crisis. Four Assembly constituencies, including the seat vacated by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, are now headed for by-elections.

QUICK READ

Cycling community's '7 kaapi x 100 miles' ends

CH News, Bengaluru
The '7 kaapi x 100 miles' campaign organised by Velocoffee with the aim of uniting the cyclng community on a single platform, concluded. An average of 23 km of cycling was done each day during the campaign held in various parts of Bengaluru. This year's event saw over 1,400 cyclists participate, with nearly 1.500 cups of coffee distributed. A record 25,000 miles of cycling were covered. The campaign, which emphasized the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, discipline and consistency, is an inspiration for those looking to embark on a new fitness journey, organizers said. He said the initiative is not just a cycling event, it has evolved into a cycling festival in Bengaluru that brings together coffee, health and community

Govt school HM held for sexually harassing girl

CH News, Bengaluru
Sriramapuram police have arrested the headmaster of a government higher primary school on charges of sexually harassing a girl.
The matter came to light after it was discovered that the girl was one and a half months pregnant. During the interrogation, it was revealed that the accused had been harassing the girl for a year. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a POCSO case against the headmaster and arrested him. The accused has been remanded in judicial custody.

Station roars back to life after massive makeover

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru East Railway Station has been redeveloped by South Western Railway as part of major suburban rail upgrades in East Bengaluru. The station has been redeveloped under South Western Railway's ongoing infrastructure improvement plan, focused on strengthening suburban rail connectivity and improving operational efficiency in the Bengaluru East section. The redevelopment is part of the Cantonment–Whitefield quadrupling project, which adds two additional tracks to enhance suburban rail capacity and improve connectivity across east Bengaluru. The project includes two extra railway tracks aimed at increasing line capacity and ensuring smoother movement of trains across the busy east Bengaluru corridor. The Station remained closed since March after platforms were dismantled to enable major track expansion and redevelopment work at the site.

Cong govt betrayed people of K'taka: BJP chief

Nitin Nabin, who was on his first visit to Karnataka, accused the Congress of "financially exploiting" Karnataka for the benefit of its national leadership.

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Bengaluru: BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Sunday targeted the Congress government in Karnataka, alleging that the administration had "betrayed" the people of the state and diverted its focus away from development and welfare activities over the past three years.

Speaking during his two-day visit to Karnataka, Nabin said the ruling Congress in the state was plagued by internal conflicts and accused its leaders of "using power for personal interests" rather than governance.

"The Karnataka government has deceived the people here over the past three years, betrayed the trust of the people, and because of their internal conflicts, public welfare works have taken a back seat," he said.

He indirectly referred to the 'power tussle' between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

Claiming that the state government was disconnected from public concerns, Nabin said, "The government here has nothing to do with the interests of the people. The leaders running this government are using the government and power merely as instruments for themselves." He alleged that developmental and welfare programmes in Karnataka had suffered due to the Congress government's priorities.

"The government's focus has been completely diverted from development schemes that should have been implemented for the people of this state and the welfare activities that should have been carried out," he said.

Nabin also accused the Congress of "financially exploiting" Karnataka for the benefit of its national leadership.

"Congress is using Karnataka as an ATM to decorate and sustain its court in Delhi," he alleged.

Referring to his visit, the BJP leader said district-level training camps of the party were being held across the country and added that he had reviewed organisational activities in Karnataka during his tour.

"I am on a two-day visit to Karnataka. Training camps are currently being conducted for districts across our country. I got the opportunity to participate in that, and at the same time, I also got the opportunity to observe how the party's active organisational activities are continuously moving forward in Karnataka," he said.

The BJP president held the state-level core committee meeting in the party's state headquarter here and then spoke to reporters.

According to party sources, Nabin gave instructions to gear up for the local body elections and strengthen the party base at the grassroot level for the 2028 assembly election.

Animal adoption project in Bannerghatta generates Rs 30L revenue

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

The reform measures taken to promote the adoption of animals and birds at the BBP are bearing fruits

The adoption scheme has generated an income of over Rs 30 lakh in a single year. In order to increase people's love for animals and birds, the park started an animal adoption program a few years ago. Not only major animals like tigers, lions, leopards, elephants, and giraffes, but also small animals and birds were allowed to be adopted for a year.

During the Covid period, the adoption scheme generated around 2 crore in revenue, including donations to provide food to animals and birds. It has been less since then.

Despite the large number of tourists to the biological park, prominent celebrities, and dignitaries from various fields in a city like Bangalore, the project did not receive the expected response. Due to this, some rules were changed last year and new guidelines were formulated by the BBP.

Actress Samyukta Hornadu has adopted a tiger named Sinchana for a year by paying 2 lakh. The rest have been adopted by the business sector and various organizations.

Similar to the Chamarajendra Zoo in Mysore, the adoption project is focusing on celebrities to further popularize it. Activities are being conducted using social media.

The earlier one-year adoption period has now been extended to five years. Under the new policy, adoption is allowed for up to 5 years. In addition, you have been given the opportunity to name the animals as you like.

Adoptees are also given a certificate, a plaque with the adopter's name on the animal and bird house premises, and 5 free entry passes per year for 5 years.

We have been contacting people from various fields for the past three to four years. Some show interest. Most do not come forward to adopt. However, as a result of providing information to every visitor who comes to the park, the income has increased this year and will increase next year, which will help in the management of animals and birds.This year, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has given an adoption amount of Rs 40 lakh. We are contacting some more, AV Suryasen, Executive Director, BBP.

'YOUTH SHOULD EMBRACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BECOME JOB CREATORS'

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Chairman of the Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority, HM Revanna, has called upon young people to embrace entrepreneurship, establish their own enterprises, and become job creators instead of job seekers.

Speaking at the Kanakodyamigala Sammelana and Awareness Programme on Opportunities for Entrepreneurs, organised by the Halumatha Entrepreneurs' Association at the Kanakadasa Community Hall, Revanna said entrepreneurship was the key to achieving economic independence and strengthening communities.

He noted that members of the community would gain access to several government benefits if they were included in the Scheduled Tribe category. Efforts were being made in this direction, he said. Revanna also revealed that a request had been submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking reservation of a certain number of industrial plots allotted by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) for entrepreneurs from the Kuruba community.

Presiding over the event, Halumatha Entrepreneurs' Association President Sunil Jayaraj said the organisation was formed with the objective of empowering the community and promoting entrepreneurship among youth. He pointed out that starting a business often involves numerous challenges, but success can be achieved through proper planning, awareness and determination.

Jayaraj said the association would provide guidance, mentorship and networking opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs and help them access information about government schemes and business opportunities.

Former Minister and MLA Bandeppa Kashempur stressed the need to create employment opportunities for young people, stating that jobs were a more pressing requirement than welfare guarantees for many youths.

Several dignitaries, including religious leaders, former legislators, industrialists and community representatives, attended the programme, which focused on encouraging entrepreneurship and economic empowerment within the community.

4 delivery executives booked for Rs 4.2 Lakh product swap fraud

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

What initially appeared to be routine order cancellations at a Flipkart delivery hub in north Bengaluru has now unravelled into an alleged fraud involving four delivery executives accused of swapping expensive products with fake items and pocketing the originals worth over Rs 4.2 lakh.

The alleged fraud took place at Flipkart's delivery office in Varadaraju Layout in Amruthahally between February 1 and April 30. Based on a complaint filed by the company's enforcement officer MS Sardar, police have registered a case against four delivery boys, Nitin Murthy, Vishnu, Girish and Akash.

According to the complaint, the accused exploited the delivery and return system by placing orders for costly products such as mobile phones, earbuds, branded clothes and shoes, either in their own names or through acquaintances.

Gang kidnaps, robs cab driver, friend

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

A late-night airport pickup turned into a terrifying ordeal for a cab driver and his friend after they were allegedly kidnapped, assaulted, and robbed by a gang travelling in a Mercedes-Benz car on the city's outskirts.

Police said the clash was over a woman. According to a complaint filed by the cab driver, Mohammad Rafiq (30), a resident of a hotel in Maruthinagar, Yelahanka, he is originally from Kerala and has been working in the city as a driver using a rented car for the last six months.

On the night of May 21, his friend Deepak informed him that he was arriving in Bengaluru and requested to be picked up from the airport around 11pm. He reached the airport and picked up Deepak around 1am.While leaving the airport, Rafiq received a call from an unknown number asking for a ride. When he asked the caller to book the ride through the aggregator instead, the caller insisted on being picked up personally. He refused and disconnected the call, Rafiq claimed.

While approaching Begur around 1.15am, a white Mercedes-Benz car allegedly overtook and blocked the complainant's vehicle. Five or six men got down from the car, brandished knives and sticks, dragged Rafiq out and forced him into the Benz.

The gang allegedly snatched his mobile phone and Rs 21,000 in cash before driving towards the city. On the way, they allegedly forced him to call his friends, telling him to claim he had met with an accident. As they stopped the car in a deserted place, Rafiq called his friend Jabir.

Acting on the call, Jabir arrived at the shared location, only to be threatened at knifepoint and with iron rods, and was forcibly taken by the gang to an empty site along with Rafiq. The gang assaulted both victims. Rafiq managed to escape from them and reach his room by taking an autorickshaw. He took his friend Siddiq's phone and called police helpline 112 and informed them of the incident around 5am. He provided Jabir's number, requesting police to rescue him. Sampigehalli police contacted Rafiq and informed him that they had found Jabir.

Rafiq and Siddiq rushed to the station to find him injured in his ear. Jabir explained that the gang attacked him with a knife and robbed him of his mobile phone. Jabir was rushed to the Yelahanka Government hospital for treatment. Later, Rafiq filed a complaint with the Bagalur police, who registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 137 (kidnap) and 310 (dacoity).

A senior officer said, the attackers and the complainant are unknown to each other. We have found that the clash between them was over a woman. So, they assaulted and robbed Rafiq and Jabir. A few suspects have been detained and subjected to questioning.

Degree college new building inauguration today

BENGALURU

Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar will inaugurate the new building of Government First Grade College in Hoskote on May 26. MLA Sharath Bachegowda will preside over the programme. On this occasion the college anniversary will also be celebrated. Various cultural programmes by students will also be held. Meritorious students will be felicitated. Several leaders, donors will participate in the programme, a note released by Principal Dr Ramalingappa said.

Contractor booked for Bowring Hospital wall collapse

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Nearly a month after the deadly wall collapse on the premises of Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute claimed seven lives, police have booked the contractor entrusted with demolition and debris-clearing work after a technical probe allegedly found negligence in handling construction waste.

The incident occurred on April 29 on the hospital premises, where old structures were being cleared to make way for a new hospital block. Following the accident, Chandru, the Executive Engineer, Health and Family Welfare's Engineering wing, constituted a technical committee to investigate the cause of the collapse.

According to officials, the committee found that Chennai-based ASR Traders had failed to scientifically dispose of debris generated during the demolition process. Investigators concluded that large quantities of demolished material were left dumped at the site instead of being properly removed, contributing to the collapse of the barrier and enclosure wall.Authorities said the demolition and debris-clearing work had been assigned to ASR under a work order and agreement issued on July 1, 2017.

The contractor was allegedly responsible for clearing the old buildings before construction of the proposed new hospital facility.

Based on the findings of the technical investigation, the chief secretary directed officials to initiate criminal proceedings against the contractor. Officials said a notice seeking clarification was issued to the firm through official email on May 14, asking it to respond by May 18. However, no explanation was submitted.

OC CONFUSION

Apex court rule on OCs puts spoke in smart meter rollout

BENGALURU

The government's move to install smart meters for new electricity connections across the state has snowballed into a major administrative challenge, caught in the fallout of confusion surrounding the Supreme Court's order on mandatory Occupancy Certificates (OC).

Smart meters are expected to reduce transmission losses, improve billing efficiency and enable real-time monitoring of electricity consumption. But the Supreme Court's decision, aimed at enforcing building compliance norms, inadvertently slowed a push towards modernising the power sector.Launched nearly a year ago, the programme was initially introduced for all new and temporary electricity connections in Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BSCOM) and Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESCOM) jurisdictions, before being expanded to the other three Escoms.But official data shows only 2.9 lakh smart meters were installed as of April 2026, far below initial projections.

The court mandated that electricity connections for new buildings could only be issued upon submission of valid OCs. Energy department officials said uncertainty over implementation of the order led to confusion among consumers, builders and even field-level ESCOM engineers. ESCOMS reacted by putting lakhs of applications for new power connections on hold, especially in urban areas where several apartment complexes and residential layouts were awaiting OC approvals. Karnataka State Licensed Electrical Contractors Association (KSLECA) estimates some 15-16 lakh applications were stalled.

Lakhs of households were initially affected but the state cabinet's decision to intervene and relax implementation procedures provided major relief. Over the past six months we've installed nearly three lakh smart meters, an energy department official said. The official said the initiative would gain momentum in the coming weeks since ESCOMs have now resumed processing new applications aggressively, especially in Bengaluru and other urban centres. Of the five ESCOMS, BESCOM recorded the highest number of installations with 1.8 lakh smart meters, followed by HESCOM 55,078 and CESCOM 43,105. MESCOM installed 11,698 meters, while GESCOM recorded the lowest at 1,426.

Booked house help and got court battle, woman wins Rs 32K from firm

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

With a full-time job and an infant at home, a Bengaluru woman turned to an online domestic-help platform in search of dependable childcare support.

But the house help failed to report for duty despite payment, setting off a dispute that ended up in consumer court which ordered the platform to pay over Rs 32,000 in refund and compensation to the complainant.

The saga began when Suwetha Muthanna, 40, found herself in urgent need of domestic help. She turned to the internet for a solution and discovered BookMyBai, the consumer-facing brand of Mumbai-based Nano Job Consultants Private Limited — which offers online sourcing and placement of house helps.Suwetha registered on the platform, paying Rs 1,000 as a registration fee.

She then paid an additional Rs 21,420 as directed by the company, with an agreement that a domestic help would commence service at her residence on March 30, 2024.

However, the house help, identified as Sujatha, neither reported for duty nor appeared at her home on the agreed date.

Modi govt 'looting' country, 'robbing' common people: CM

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Petrol and diesel prices have never been so high in the history of the country and Karnataka, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, lashed out at the Centre.

He said the poor and the middle class have been bearing the brunt of the price hike.

Speaking at a joint press conference at the KPCC office on Monday, he said that now the price of petrol has increased by Rs 7.52. When Manmohan Singh was the PM, the price of petrol was Rs 71.41 and the price of diesel was Rs 56.71. But what is it now. The price of gas is now Rs 915.15. It is Rs 503 more than when Singh was the Prime Minister. Even though the price of crude oil is low, the price of petrol is increasing. The price of crude oil was Rs 65-70. But the price of petrol was not reduced. It is still low, but despite that, the price of petrol and diesel has increased, he said.

The BJP government at the Centre has started fuel looting by increasing the prices of petrol and diesel. The last 11 days have been extremely devastating for the pockets and budget of the wage earners, farmers, poor, housewives, small businessmen and the common man.

The loot of these people is not limited to petrol and diesel prices only, but also domestic gas, commercial gas, small FTL cylinders and CNG prices have increased. This has also had a severe impact on the prices of all essential items of daily use. This daylight robbery by the BJP and Modi government is not limited to collecting Rs 43 lakh crore by imposing excise and customs duty on petrol and diesel and cutting into the pockets of the common man. It has also reached the point of looting the Emergency Reserve Fund of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which is meant to help the country in emergencies. On May 23, 2 days ago, the Modi government, taking advantage of the sharp fall in the value of the Indian rupee against the dollar, sold the valuable foreign exchange reserves of the RBI and obtained Rs 2.87 lakh crore from the RBI, the Chief Minister criticised.

Cong govt engaged in blame game: HDK

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Don't you know what they do in the middle of the night? They make a living by fixing the amount of money they collect every day, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy lashed out at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Speaking to the media, he said he was the one who invited the Bidadi Township discussion.

He is busy, wants to collect this much every day, calculate the meters, fix the rates. I am not in that business.

That is why he is busy every second. I have no objection to discussing in front of the people.

Man arrested for repeatedly raping teen in B'luru

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

A school going girl was allegedly raped multiple times by a 21-year-old Tempo Traveller driver, leaving her pregnant.

The incident came to light three days ago after the girl complained of bleeding to her mother.

According to the complaint filed Saturday by the mother with Hulimavu police, her daughter, who is two months away from turning 16, studies at a private school on Bannerghatta Road.

The arrested accused, identified as Akash, befriended the girl by following and meeting her near her school from January.

He used to take the girl to the vehicle and spend time with her.

In the first week of March, after school hours, the girl was on her way home when Akash took her to his vehicle, parked near a hotel, on the pretext of a chat.

He then allegedly raped the girl. A few days later, he again took her to his vehicle and raped her.

The girl's mother learnt about the assaults when the teenager complained of bleeding.

Gruha Jyothi

Three Years of Lighting Homes, Empowering Lives

Gruha Jyothi: From Zero Bills to Economic Relief

Guarantee Varthe

Bengaluru: In a time when the cost of daily living is soaring, one of the biggest concerns affecting the monthly budget of an ordinary family is the payment of utility bills. In such challenging times, the scheme that has illuminated the homes and lives of poor and lower-middle-class families across the state is 'Gruha Jyothi'.

One of the five Guarantee Schemes implemented by the government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, this scheme has, over the last three years, emerged as a force driving the economic and social progress of the state. According to statistics from the Energy Department, more than 1.64 crore domestic electricity consumers in the state have registered under this scheme and are receiving the benefit of 'Zero Bill'. For this, the government has so far spent ₹26,115 crore, paying it as subsidy to the Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs).

Officially launched on August 5, 2023, in Kalaburagi, the scheme has successfully fulfilled its promise of providing up to 200 units of free electricity to every household in the state. The most progressive decision under this scheme is that it was not restricted only to homeowners but was also extended to lakhs of residents living in rented houses. This has provided immense financial relief to the working class.

An Energy Revolution that Became a Model for the Nation

Karnataka's 'Gruha Jyothi' model is a revolutionary step in the country's energy sector. Beyond merely providing a free benefit, it has encouraged consumers to use electricity within their average consumption limits, thereby creating awareness about power conservation among the public. Several states across the country are now closely observing Karnataka's successful model and showing interest in implementing similar initiatives, which stands as a testament to its achievement.

Zero Bills Reviving the Rural Economy

The amount saved every month through electricity bills - ranging from ₹800 to ₹1,500 - is now remaining in the pockets of poor and middle-class families. Parents are using this money for their children's educational needs, purchasing nutritious food grains, and meeting the medical expenses of elderly family members. Some have even started small-scale enterprises from their homes. As a result, people's purchasing power has increased, and the rural economy is also recovering.

BESCOM
68,27,630 Beneficiaries
₹12,168 Crore Expenditure

HESCOM
34,50,833 Beneficiaries
₹4,523 Crore Expenditure

GESCOM
23,96,139 Beneficiaries
₹3,367 Crore Expenditure

C.E.S.C. MYSORE
23,50,753 Beneficiaries
₹3,032 Crore Expenditure

MESCOM
16,37,123 Beneficiaries
₹2,889 Crore Expenditure

For the people like us, paying the electricity bill itself had become a major challenge. Now, electricity has become completely free through Siddaramaiah's government. The money that remains with us is helping feed our families. Not only that, this scheme has become a source of light that allows our children to study peacefully at night without any fear.

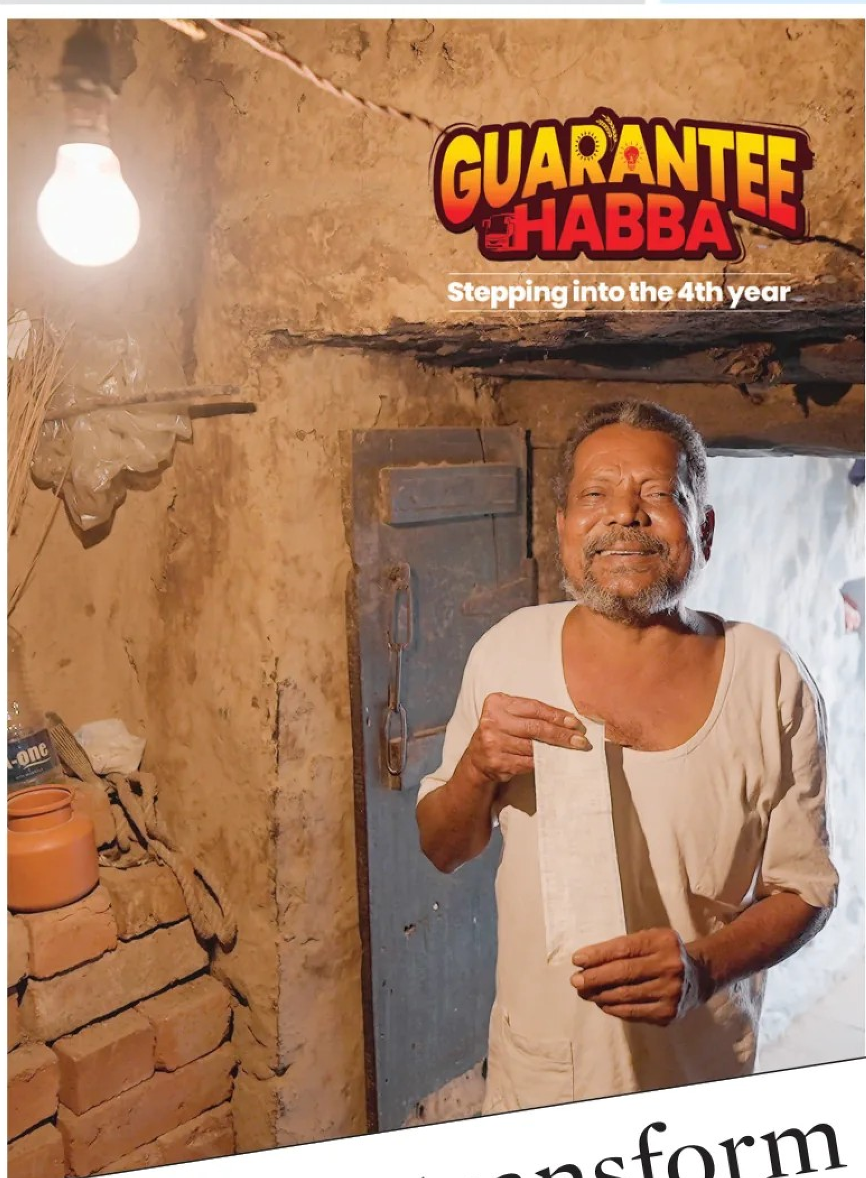
Mahadevappa Valmiki, Haveri

We are people who earn our daily food through wage labour. We used to receive an electricity bill of nearly ₹1,000 per month. We had to set aside the wages of two full days just to pay the bill. But because of Gruha Jyothi, we now receive a 'Zero Bill'. Since electricity has become free, it has greatly benefited the lives of poor people.

Lakshman Kumar, Raichur

Due to lack of capital, I was unable to purchase new machines to provide tailoring training to girls and was worried about meeting electricity expenses. At such a time, the government's 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme became a great source of support for me. Once the concern of electricity bills disappeared, I saved the Gruha Lakshmi money, purchased new sewing machines, started my own tailoring classes.

Ameena Begum, Shahapur



Lighting the Homes of the Poor is True Governance

The satisfaction of seeing Zero Bills reach crores of households every month under Gruha Jyothi is immense. Reducing the financial burden on people and improving their quality of life is the fundamental aspiration of our progressive Karnataka.

Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

A New Chapter in Karnataka's Energy Sector

The Gruha Jyothi scheme has infused new strength into the economic empowerment of ordinary people. Along with freeing households from electricity bills, its greatest success lies in instilling discipline and responsibility in electricity consumption among the public.

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Transparent and Continuous Energy Service

Despite the complexities of the electricity distribution system, our department has successfully delivered the benefits of Gruha Jyothi to more than 1.64 crore consumers without any confusion or disruption.

K.J. George, Energy Minister

karnataka information

Frustrated residents take charge, transform littered Koramangala streets

Koramangala residents launch cleanliness drive, install bins, clear waste themselves.

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

Frustrated by littering and the absence of public dustbins, residents of Koramangala launched a community-led cleanliness initiative that has transformed parts of the neighbourhood.

The drive, involving Siddharth Dialani and other local residents, saw installation of multiple dustbins across four streets, putting up awareness banners and clearing debris from footpaths. Posting on X, Dialani said around Rs 15,000 was spent on procuring dustbins, lock-chains and awareness material. Other local residents also took responsibility for replacing garbage bags and emptying the bins every alternate day. Separate bins were installed for dog waste, while collected garbage is handed over to the civic authority's trucks.

The initiative also saw the authorities deploy trucks and earthmovers to clear heavy construction debris such as pipes, bricks and cement blocks from footpaths.

The residents additionally contributed funds to paint footpath walls, with plans to add plants in the area and expand the drive to more streets, Dialani said in the post.

The initiative triggered a wider debate online on citizen participation and civic responsibility.Caleb Friesen, a Canadian who previously lived in Bengaluru and frequently posted about civic issues in the city, supported the initiative. If city govts do not do their job, citizens must pick up the slack, Friesen wrote, praising the residents for spending their own money to improve the neighbourhood. If citizens are forced to do the jobs of govt servants, who are paid salaries from our tax money, what exactly are those officials being appointed and paid for. another social media user wrote on X. Another user commented that while citizen participation was welcome, govts should not become dependent on residents stepping in to fill civic gaps.

Air Force Test Pilots School holds graduation ceremony

CH NEWS, Bengaluru

As many as 11 test pilots and six flight test engineers of the 48th Flight Test Course, who completed 48 weeks of rigorous multi-disciplinary training at the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS), were conferred with degrees.

These graduates will join the Aviation Division of the Aircraft and Systems Test Establishment, one of the key units of the Indian Air Force.

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, distributed the certificates and presented trophies to the best performers.

The Suranjan Das Trophy was presented to Squadron Leader KK Singh, the Chief of the Air Staff Trophy to Squadron Leader Aditya Jamadagni, the Maharaj Hanumant Singh Sword trophy to CDR Abhinav Kumar, the Dunlop Trophy to CDR Pranav Sharma, and the Kapil Bhargava Trophy to Squadron Leader Paras Sharma.

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh spoke and advised, Graduated officers should continue to focus and work hard. He said that focus should be placed on capacity building and modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces.

Auto driver brutally murdered over cigarette smoke, Accused arrested

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A fight that started over a trivial reason ended in murder on the Abbigere main road late Sunday night. An auto driver was brutally stabbed to death with a dragger in a fight that started over a cigarette. The auto driver who was killed is Syed Shafi (36), a resident of Raja Saab Palya. The Chikkabanavara police have arrested the accused Darshan in connection with the incident.

Shafi had come to Meena Bar on Abbigere main road at 11:30 pm on Sunday and had bought alcohol. Since it was closing time for the bar, he parked his auto in front and was drinking alcohol with his friend. At the same time, the accused Darshan had also come out of the bar with his friends. Later, he stood next to Shafi's auto, smoking a cigarette and urinating.

Kannada must be developed by everyone says Horatti

Gangadhar Nandi said Kannada is 2000 years old official language, but only 23% speak it

HAVERI

Haveri Legislative Council Speaker Basavaraj Horatti said Kannada is our mother tongue and everyone must work to protect and develop it. He said the effort should begin in Haveri district and people must work together to save Kannada language. He was speaking at the inauguration of second state level Kannada Sahitya Sammelan held at Dr B R Ambedkar Bhavan.

Senior writer D Gangadhar Nandi also attended the main stage programme. He said Kannada has a history of two thousand years and it is recognised as administrative and judicial language. Only 23 percent people in Bengaluru

speak Kannada he added.

He said everyone should speak Kannada in government offices and oppose closure of Kannada schools. G M O A Karanna said Kannada must be used at home and preserved for future generations. S D Mudennavara said Kannada medium schools should not be closed in the state.

Former Zilla Parishad president Parameshwarappa Megalmani said Kannada language and Indian culture must be protected. Books were released cultural events held and students and achievers were honoured during the event. Many writers, teachers, artists and public participated in the programme and made it successful. The conference also stressed the importance of protecting Kannada schools and encouraging children to learn Kannada. Organizers thanked participants and said Kannada should remain strong in daily life and administration. The event ended with cultural programmes, poetry sessions and honouring of guests.

Speakers urged government and society to work together to preserve Kannada identity, promote education in Kannada medium, and ensure that language pride continues among youth across Karnataka. They called it a shared responsibility of all citizens. Kannada first always.

Pulse Polio campaign in Mysuru Dist from June 28 to July 1: DHO

MYSURU

The Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign will be conducted across Mysuru district from June 28 to July 1, and officials must ensure that no child below the age of five is left out of vaccination, said District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. P.C. Kumaraswamy.

Presiding over the District Vaccination Task Force Coordination Committee meeting here on Monday, he said a total of 1,641 booths will be opened on June 28 to administer polio drops to children. Parents have been urged to ensure that all children below five years receive the vaccine on June 28, even if they have already been vaccinated earlier. From June 29 to July 1, health workers will conduct door-to-door visits to identify children who missed vaccination and administer the doses. Officials must ensure that no child in the district is deprived of vaccination.

The DHO said for the campaign, 7,78,059 households and 2,19,521 children below the age of five have been identified in the district. As many as 6,772 vaccinators and 328 supervisors will be deployed for the programme. To ensure that no child is missed, authorities have identified 1,396 high-risk areas, including locations where construction workers, brick kiln labourers and migrant workers reside. A total of 51 mobile teams have also been formed to administer vaccines. Officials were instructed to maintain close monitoring in high-risk areas.

DHO announced vaccination campaign covering 7,78,059 households; 6,772 vaccinators deployed, focusing on 1,396 high-risk areas and 51 mobile teams to ensure full coverage

RCH Officer Dr. Siraj Ahmed said that the last polio case in India was reported in 2011 and no fresh cases have been detected since then. The World Health Organization declared India a polio-free country in 2014. However, as polio cases continue to be reported in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, the Pulse Polio programme is being continued in India as a precautionary measure with enhanced surveillance.

Transit booths

He also instructed officials to make necessary preparations for setting up transit booths on June 28 at tourist locations such as Mysuru Palace, Mysuru Zoo and Chamundi Hills. Greater awareness programmes should be organised in places where migrant workers, construction labourers and daily wage workers reside so that their children receive vaccination. During the 2025 Pulse Polio campaign, the district had set a target of vaccinating 2,22,084 children.

However, 2,33,484 children were vaccinated, achieving 105.13 per cent coverage. Departments including Women and Child Development, Education, NGOs, Transport and Police must work in coordination to ensure the success of the Pulse Polio programme.

District Health Department Programme Implementation Officer Dr. Gopinath, Dr. Nagaraj, Dr. Brinda, Dr. Suvarna, taluk medical officers Dr. Ravi Kumar, Dr. Puttatayamma, Dr. Eshwar and other officials were present.

QUICK READ

Buddhist ceremony marks house inauguration in Hunsur

Hunsur

House of Ningraj Malladi from Kattemalalawadi village in Hunsur taluk was inaugurated following Buddhist traditions. Buddhist Banteji Kollegala Chetovana Pujya Manorankit Banteji led the ceremony. He taught Panchasheel and conducted rituals before Gautama Buddha statue blessing family peace. The house name was unveiled as Mother's Lap ceremony witnessed community members. Dr Shivakumar of Akka IAS Academy said Buddha's teachings bring peace and knowledge to society and stressed harmony over conflict. R Mahadevappa and former mayor Purushottam highlighted Ambedkar ideals and urged Dalit community progress through Buddhist principles. Many leaders attended the housewarming ceremony in Hunsur

Applications invited for distribution of sports equipment

Mysuru

The 'MY Bharat Centre' has invited applications for the distribution of sports equipment with the objective of promoting sports culture, physical fitness and youth participation, besides encouraging youngsters to actively take part in MY Bharat programmes. Preference will be given to youth organisations that have participated in MY Bharat activities and have not received sports kits or equipment during the previous financial year. It is mandatory for all youth organisations and their members to register on the MY Bharat portal. Unregistered organisations will not be considered. Youth organisations may submit their applications in the prescribed format along with relevant documents to the District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Centre, Mysuru, on or before June 3. For further information, applicants may contact the office at No. 26/A, Rajarajeshwari Temple Road, Vishweshwara Nagar, 3rd Stage, Mysuru – 570008, or call 0821-2489858 / 7736426247, according to a release issued by the Youth Officer of the MY Bharat Centre.

Delegation approved decision considering factors; factory has 450 acres, 50% green cover, 1,890 employees, needs expanded health facility

Environmental body reviews BEML tree cutting proposal

MYSURU

Parisarakkaagi Naavu, an organization dedicated for the protection of environment in Mysuru, has decided not to object to the felling of 137 trees for the construction of an Occupational Health Centre within the premises of the BEML Limited factory located on the outskirts of Mysuru.

The decision was taken after a five-member delegation from the organisation visited the factory, inspected the site, and held discussions with company officials.

The delegation members said they arrived at that decision after considering a number of aspects. The factory campus, spread across 450 acres, has more than 50 percent green cover. A total of 1,890 workers, staff and officers are employed at the factory. The existing health centre is very small and there is a need for another occupational health facility, as recommended by the ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Certification body. The factory management is required to comply with these standards.

The proposed health centre is being constructed near the main gate and adjacent to the compound wall along the main road. This would enable quick transportation of injured persons to outside hospitals after administering first aid. It would also help provide emergency primary treatment to members of the public injured in road accidents near the factory premises.

Senior factory officials assured the delegation that efforts would be made to save as many of the identified 137 trees as possible without cutting them. They also promised to plant and nurture ten times the number of saplings compared to the trees felled.

The officials further assured that native species and fruit-bearing plants would be planted within the factory premises to improve biodiversity.

Factory General Manager Sudhakar S., HR Manager Karithirumal, Deputy General Manager Malatesh K. and other officials cooperated during the inspection and provided the required information.

The delegation comprised Parashuramegowda, Ravi Bale, Bhanu Prashanth, Vishwanath and Sudheer Ganapathi.

Christian body alleges misuse of religious law

BENGALURU

Akhila Bharath Cristha Mahasabha expressed concern over the alleged misuse of the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act, 2021 in parts of Karnataka. The organization said the law was being used to target Christians and their religious activities. It stated that prayer meetings in homes, churches, and centres were often disturbed on allegations of forced conversion. Pastors and believers were reportedly facing questioning and harassment from certain groups.

The organization further raised concern over the interpretation of the term allurement. It said the term was being used too broadly and that acts like providing healthcare, education, food, and donations should not be treated as religious conversion. It added that such charitable work is part of service to society and is protected under Article 25 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees freedom of religion.

Akhila Bharath Cristha Mahasabha appealed to the state government to protect rights of Christians, pastors, and religious workers so they can practice their faith peacefully. It said the issue should be seen as a matter of constitutional rights and not only politics. The organization claimed that fear among minorities could harm democratic values. Christian institutions in Karnataka have served society through education and healthcare for many years.

These institutions provide services to people of all communities without discrimination without bias. The group demanded withdrawal of the proposed ₹250 crore fine, dismissal of false cases, and freedom for charitable institutions to function without pressure. Also urged that changes to religious freedom laws be made only after consultation with stakeholders. They warned of protest at Freedom Park on 30 June 2026.

"Guru worship is like an ocean where many rivers meet"

MYSURU

Renowned spiritual thinker and orator Chakravarthy Sulibele said that whenever the path of religion and culture in a nation begins to waver, it is through the spiritual strength and penance of saints that Sanatana Dharma finds its way back.

Speaking during the birthday celebrations of Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji at the Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashrama in Mysuru on Monday, he said worship of the Guru is like an ocean into which many rivers merge. "Just as rivers flow swiftly and merge into the ocean, all of us have gathered here today beyond the barriers of language for the worship of the Guru. It is a wonderful moment. We are all chosen by the Divine, and it is that divine force which has brought us here," he said.

On the role of spiritual guidance in modern life, Sulibele said that the constant chaos of the world quickly drains the "battery" of noble thoughts within people. However, the glance and gentle smile of the Guru possess the extraordinary ability to recharge and revive them. The compassion and blessings of the Guru continue to flow endlessly.

Praising the global spiritual activities of Swamiji, the social thinker said Swamiji's efforts in spreading the ideals of Lord Hanuman and the philosophy of Datta across the world are immense. His work in taking the greatness of Bharat Mata to the global stage is not merely personal effort, but a divine mission. While ordinary people celebrate only birthdays, the birth anniversary of saints who dedicate their lives to society becomes a true spiritual festival. At a time when the world is moving towards destruction, Hindu Dharma has the power to give a message of peace to humanity. They must all walk on that path sincerely under the guidance of our Guru.

Sulibele offered his tributes at the feet of Swamiji and fondly recalled his old memories associated with the Ashrama, including performances by legendary musicians like M. Balamuralikrishna on the same stage.

Society service honoured at K.R. Nagar

K.R. NAGAR

Speaking at the 23rd anniversary of the Creative Writers and Artists Association and the 8th anniversary of Vichara Bhanshya Fortshik newspaper at the Government Employees Hall in K.R. Nagar, Taluk Government Employees Association President and Medical Officer Dr. D. Nataraju said that recognition and honour for people serving society encourages them to work with more enthusiasm.

He said government employees should work in a society-oriented way and the association's efforts in recognising and honouring achievers from different fields and social service workers are commendable.

Orthopedic specialist Dr. K. R. Gautam said that negative thinking quickly affects people and one should become wiser and use life properly by helping those in need and living for the needy.

Saligrama Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer A. N. Ravi said running a newspaper is a social responsibility and it should carry meaningful articles that support reading culture and social development.

During the programme, 32 achievers from various fields including journalists, doctors, police personnel, civil servants, farmers, students and others were honoured with the Creative Goodwill Award for their contributions to society.

Uncle paid lakhs for nephew's murder: Cops nab 'supari killers'

MYSURU

In a major breakthrough, the Mysuru District Police have uncovered a shocking 'supari' murder plot allegedly orchestrated by a timber trader to eliminate his own nephew over a property dispute in Mysuru district.

Addressing reporters on Monday, Mallikarjun Baladandi said six persons, including notorious rowdy sheeters, were arrested in connection with two attempts on the life of Praveen Kumar of Periyapatna taluk. The first attack took place on April 13 near Hitnahalli village when two helmet-clad assailants allegedly attacked Praveen with deadly weapons. Though he sustained serious injuries to his hand, he managed to escape.

During the investigation, police also examined a suspicious road accident involving Praveen and found evidence suggesting it was another planned murder attempt. A special investigation team led by DSP Ravi of Hunsur Sub-Division was formed to crack the case.

Police investigations allegedly revealed that Praveen's uncle, Raju alias Soude Raju, a timber merchant from Bettadapura, had hired contract killers due to an ongoing property dispute. He allegedly paid Rs. 7 lakh to Shafi KP of Sullia to stage a fatal accident targeting Praveen. Further investigation exposed another conspiracy in which Rs. 30 lakh was allegedly paid through intermediaries to notorious criminals to execute the murder plan.

Police seized vehicles, mobile phones and cash from the accused. SP Baladandi and Additional SP C. Mallik praised the investigation team for solving the case successfully.

Officials appeal for communal harmony during Bakrid

MANDYA

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar chaired a peace meeting ahead of Bakrid festival and appealed for communal harmony across the district. He said the festival should be celebrated with peace and mutual respect without any discrimination and warned against disturbances.

Police officials assured that strict security arrangements have been made and they will take action against those spreading rumours or inciting violence on social media. Religious leaders from Hindu and Muslim communities attended the meeting and assured full cooperation with the administration to maintain harmony during the festival period.

In a separate review meeting the District Collector directed officials to immediately shift the Social Welfare Department post-matric girls hostel at Bandigowda Layout due to poor conditions. He ordered that the hostel must be moved within one week and instructed officials to ensure clean rooms safe kitchen facilities and proper first aid kits. He warned that hostel wardens and social welfare officers will be held responsible if students face any problems or lack basic facilities.

The Collector also issued instructions to ban swimming in dangerous river areas near Balamuri and prohibit use of unsafe rafts to prevent accidents.

A committee involving tourism and police departments has been formed to improve safety and manage crowd control in riverbank tourist spots.

Officials said warning boards CCTV cameras and loudspeaker announcements will be installed and home guards will be deployed to guide visitors.

They added that awareness campaigns will be conducted among local farmers to report tourists entering risky zones immediately to police authorities.

Superintendent of Police Dr. Shobharani said police and home guards will maintain continuous vigilance along riverbanks to prevent accidents.

QUICK READ

Registration mandatory for handloom weaver benefits

Chikkaballapur

Handloom weavers receiving financial assistance of Rs 5,000 per year under the Weavers' Samman Scheme must register under PMJJBY and PMSBY schemes as per government order. Eligible weavers and workers involved in handloom and allied activities should complete registration and submit self attested bank account statements showing annual premium deduction to the office by June 12. Those not registered under PMJJBY or PMSBY for 2026-27 will be excluded from the Weavers' Samman Scheme for 2026-27. For more information, contact the office or call 08156-277031, 9945594959, 8971754927, 9986392953 as stated by the department.

Scheduled power cut announced for Kumta region

Karwar

HESCOM Kumta subdivision will carry out emergency maintenance at the 110kV substation affecting 11kV Mirjan and Katgal feeders, causing power disruption on May 27 from 10 am to 2 pm. Due to construction of Mirjan 11kV new line supply will also be affected in Kumta subdivision along with conductor change work in Masura and Bada feeders from 10 am to 5 pm Emergency maintenance at the 33kV Gokarna substation will cause disruption in all parts of Gokarna branch from 10 am to 1 pm HESCOM appeals to consumers to cooperate during scheduled maintenance work.

Bidar South MLA reviews constituency development works

Officials were directed to improve village sanitation, waste management, regular cleaning, and public cooperation for environmental protection

BIDAR

Bidar South MLA Dr. Shailendra Beldale held a detailed review meeting at the Municipal Corporation office on Monday. He discussed key issues related to the overall development of villages under his constituency and instructed officials to respond quickly to public problems.

He said priority will be given to newly added villages including Amalapur, Goranalli, Chondi, Chauli, Kolara (K), Hajjaragi, Kamalpur and Nizampur. Development works will be speeded up to provide basic facilities to citizens.

Officials were directed to strengthen sanitation systems in all villages. They were asked to improve waste management and ensure regular cleaning. The MLA also appealed to the public to cooperate in maintaining cleanliness and environmental protection.

Drinking water supply was discussed in the meeting. Officials were told to identify shortage areas and take urgent steps. Road works, drainage improvement, rainwater flow management and streetlight repairs were also instructed to be completed on time.

The MLA made it clear that officials must respond quickly to public complaints. He said they should inspect issues on site and provide immediate solutions with top priority to citizen grievances.

The MLA said the goal is to develop villages into clean and model areas. He stressed that government, municipal officials and citizens must work together for successful development.

Municipal Commissioner Mukul Jain said priority will be given to resolving issues quickly and improving basic infrastructure in all villages under the corporation limits. He added that officials will coordinate effectively and complete all development works with quality and within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting concluded with assurance of better coordination and faster response to public needs in coming days across all villages under Bidar South constituency. It focused on accountability and transparency in every stage of development work.

People must shape local development plans together: HK Patil

DR Patil urged people-driven 2027–28 planning for Gadag as model participatory governance; officials discussed coordination for implementing district development schemes

GADAG

Development plans should be made by people themselves said Minister H K Patil while addressing District Planning Committee meeting at Zilla Panchayat Hall in Gadag on Monday.

He said the committee has been formed to strengthen governance from village level to higher levels and called the meeting historic. He added that every village has started planning discussions under Panchayat Raj system and these plans will improve welfare and future budgets.

He said special focus must be given to implementing local projects and making district development a model for the state. He highlighted works in Lakkundi Rural University and district hospital and said Gram Swarajya dream of Mahatma Gandhi can be achieved through proper planning from gram to taluk to zilla level.

Karnataka State Decentralization Planning Committee Vice Chairman D R Patil said plans for 2027-28 should be prepared by people and Gadag district should become a model in participatory governance. He said only then village development will reach true empowerment.

Several officials including Deputy Commissioner Police Superintendent and Zilla Panchayat officers attended the meeting and discussed coordination for implementing development schemes across the district.

Minister H K Patil said village level planning meetings will help people express their needs directly and ensure better use of government funds. He said all departments must coordinate properly and ensure timely implementation of works. He also said citizen participation is essential for successful democracy and asked officials to follow transparency and accountability in all schemes.

Nagalakshmi stressed safe workplaces for women, stress-free work-life balance, and strict implementation of laws beyond paper only

WOMEN VIOLENCE CASES MUST BE REDUCED TO ZERO: NAGALAKSHMI

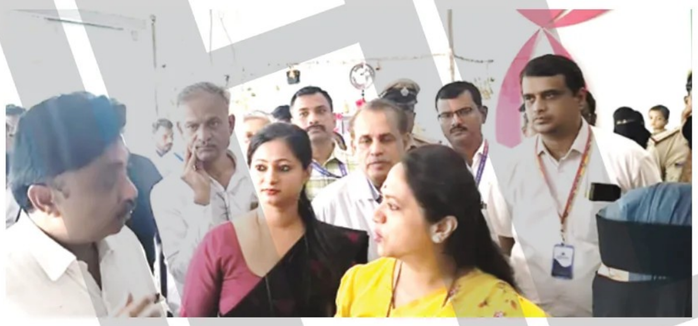
UDUPI

Dr Nagalakshmi Choudhary, Chairperson of Karnataka State Women's Commission, said cases of violence against women must be reduced to zero by ensuring safe workplaces across government and private sectors. She was speaking at a training programme on Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013 held at Manipal Rajathadri auditorium in Udupi, organised with district administration, police, zilla panchayat and women and child development department.

A respectful workplace environment should be ensured so women can work without fear, she said. If women are free from physical and mental stress, they can balance family and work better. She added that the law should not remain only on paper and must be strictly implemented by all departments.

The commission chair said Karnataka, especially Udupi district, already reports low cases, but awareness must increase further. She urged women not to hesitate in filing complaints if harassment occurs at workplaces. She also instructed officers to act responsibly and ensure quick justice without delay or negligence.

The main aim of the Act is to create safe and respectful workplaces and prevent sexual harassment. She said every institution must form internal and local complaints committees and use the She-Box portal for confidential reporting. Officials and committee members were asked to coordinate and spread awareness so that women's rights are protected and equality is ensured across workplaces.



Additional district officials, police officers, labour department representatives and committee members attended the programme in Udupi. Resource persons explained complaint mechanisms, legal support systems and importance of coordination to ensure women safety at workplaces across sectors.

ADC chairs meeting on snake and dog bite control

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N. Bhaskar chaired an inter departmental coordination meeting on snake and dog bite control at the District Collector office and issued strict directions to officials to take immediate preventive measures.

He said improper disposal of meat waste attracts stray dogs and instructed local bodies and health officials to inspect meat shops and take legal action against violators and unlicensed sellers.

Officials reported 12,663 dog bites in 2025 with two deaths, and 944 snake bites with seven deaths. Since January 2026, 5717 dog bite cases were treated and 292 snake bite deaths including three were recorded.

Dr Bhaskar explained rabies is a deadly viral disease transmitted mainly through dog bites and stressed immediate vaccination, including anti rabies serum and immunoglobulin for wound treatment, and urged pet vaccination.

He also gave safety guidelines for snake bite cases advising victims to remain calm, restrict movement, remove tight items from the body and immediately shift the patient to hospital for treatment.

Officials were directed to conduct awareness programmes in schools, colleges, gram panchayats and municipalities and distribute pamphlets under the National Rabies Control Programme.

Dr Krishnaprasad, Dr GV Santosh Babu, Dr Prakash, Dr Chandrashekhar Reddy and other district and taluk level officers participated in the programme and supported the awareness drive.

Officials said the public must cooperate with the administration by keeping surroundings clean, avoiding dumping of meat waste on roads and ensuring pets are vaccinated regularly to reduce the risk of rabies and stray dog population growth in urban and rural areas. Authorities also urged timely reporting of animal bite cases and immediate medical attention without delay. Helplines should be used whenever required for emergency assistance.

The meeting concluded with officials reaffirming their commitment to reduce deaths caused by snake and dog bites through stronger enforcement, better sanitation practices and continuous public awareness campaigns across the district. They emphasized coordination between health, local administration and police departments to ensure safety of citizens. The district administration said it will closely monitor implementation of guidelines and strengthen emergency response systems in rural and urban areas for health outcomes.

Married woman accuses lawyer of sexual assault case

SHIVAMOGGA

Police in Bhadravati have registered a rape and blackmail case against a lawyer who is also said to be a BJP Yuva Morcha leader after a married woman accused him of sexual assault and threats.

The accused has been identified as Bharath B.S. A case was registered at the Paper Town police station in Bhadravati taluk of Shivamogga district following a complaint filed by a 23-year-old woman.

According to the complaint, the woman first came in contact with Bharath through Instagram. Later, he reportedly introduced himself as a friend of her husband and frequently visited the grocery store where she worked. The woman alleged that Bharath behaved inappropriately, touched her body and hands repeatedly, and continued harassing her during his visits.

Police said the victim's husband had once asked Bharath to deliver money to their house. On April 11, when the woman was alone at home, Bharath allegedly entered the house under the pretext of handing over the money and sexually assaulted her. The complaint stated that he also threatened to damage her reputation if she revealed the incident to anyone.

The woman further alleged that Bharath again tried to sexually harass her on April 25. The matter came to light after her husband questioned her about her blocked Instagram account. Later, he reportedly gathered information by chatting with the accused through WhatsApp using his wife's phone.

The couple then approached the police and filed a complaint. After the case was registered, the accused reportedly went absconding. Police have launched a search operation to trace and arrest him soon.

Madhugiri football tournament concludes with great success

PAVAGADA

The 5th edition of the Madhugiri Sub-District Level 5's Football Tournament, organized by the Football Association at Y.N. Hoskote village in the taluk, was a great success. Teams from four taluks of the Madhugiri Sub-District took part in the tournament and displayed their sports skills in exciting matches. In the final match, Gajakesari YFC won the first prize, while Vajrayudha YFC secured second place. PES teacher Abdul Shukur, Srinivas, and members of the Football Association were warmly felicitated by the organizers for their contribution to the event.

Office bearers of the Football Association, sports enthusiasts, and members of the public attended the program in large numbers and encouraged the players throughout the tournament. The event created a positive atmosphere in the village and motivated young players to improve their football skills for future competitions.

HPV vaccine urged to prevent cervical cancer

CHITRADURGA

The District Health Education Officer Krishna Naik said that increasing cases of breast and cervical cancer among women is worrying. He said all 14-year-old girls are being given HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer and parents should take benefit of it. He spoke after inspecting a vaccination session and National Dengue Day awareness programme held at an Anganwadi centre on District Stadium Road in Budhanagar on Monday. He said vaccination is important and safe and urged mothers to get their daughters vaccinated through ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

Deputy District Health Education Officer Govindaraddy Konnur said that malaria, dengue, chikungunya, elephantiasis and encephalitis are mosquito borne diseases spread through infected female mosquito bites. He said dengue and chikungunya are spread by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes. He advised people to avoid stagnant water, keep containers covered and maintain cleanliness during rainy season. He said citizens should wear loose clothes and get medical tests immediately if fever appears. He urged the public to follow the slogan Check Clean and Cover. Officials also collected information about underweight children in Anganwadi centres and checked health records.

Workers were instructed to maintain hygiene of food and drinking water. Health workers ASHA and Anganwadi staff along with mothers and children attended the programme.

DISTRICT FUEL MONITORING

Vijayapura district ensures stable petrol and diesel supply

VIJAYAPURA

District Magistrate Dr Anand K held a meeting with oil company sales officers and petrol station owners association representatives and instructed them to ensure uninterrupted petrol and diesel supply across Vijayapura district.

He said there is adequate fuel stock in the district and public should not panic and companies must supply fuel regularly as per demand and ensure smooth distribution to all petrol pumps.

He also advised people to buy fuel as per requirement only and said monsoon sowing over seven lakh hectares requires steady fuel supply for farmers and monitoring will be done through daily reports by the administration.

Oil company representatives informed that there is no shortage and supply is being maintained as per schedule while officials suggested transparent distribution, display of fuel stock and price at every petrol pump for consumer awareness and protection.

Deputy Director of Food Department Vinay Kumar Patil shared details of petrol pumps in the district and said monitoring systems and contact numbers have been issued for public assistance across all taluks.

The District Collector directed officials to maintain coordination with oil companies and petrol pump owners to avoid any disruption during monsoon season and assured strict monitoring of fuel supply in the district. He added that grievance redressal will be immediate and fuel availability data will be updated daily for transparency and farmers and consumers will not face inconvenience and administration will ensure accountability and compliance by all agencies involved in fuel distribution across the district ensuring stable supply and public confidence throughout the season. Officials will continue inspections and submit daily reports to the district administration office.

QUICK READ

Traffic constable Rajappa reunites lost child quickly

Udupi

Traffic constable Rajappa has earned praise in Udupi after promptly reuniting a six-year-old boy with his family. The child had accidentally separated from his parents while travelling by bus from Dharmasthala to Udupi and reached the busy Kalsanka Junction alone. Noticing the confused child, Rajappa approached him, comforted him, and quickly gathered details through nearby inquiries. Within a short time, he traced the family and arranged an emotional reunion at the same location. Police officials appreciated his alert response and shared the moment photograph. The Udupi police said the incident reflects efficient public service and quick action in crowded areas, while residents praised the constable's timely intervention and dedication to public safety.

Power disruption scheduled in Madikeri areas Today

Madikeri

Power supply will be interrupted on May 26 in Kodagu district due to network strengthening and monsoon preparation works on the F3 Moornadu feeder from the 33/11 kV power distribution substation. Supply will be affected from 10 am to 5 pm in Moornadu Town, Muttarmudi, Kumbaladalu, Kiggalu, Kabadageri and nearby villages along this line. Executive Engineer of the Chavisanini Works and Maintenance Department has requested public cooperation during the scheduled maintenance work. Power will be restored after completion of the maintenance work. Residents are advised to plan accordingly and stay prepared during the outage period.

Coastal board studies mangrove ecosystems in Tamil Nadu

Mangaluru

A delegation of the Karnataka Coastal Development Board, on a study tour in Tamil Nadu focused on mangrove ecosystems, visited the Rajiv Gandhi memorial at Sriperumbudur and offered floral tributes to the former Prime Minister. The team is examining mangrove species and coastal conservation practices at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation and other research centres in Tamil Nadu as part of their field study. Board chairman M A Gaffoor, secretary Pradeep D'Souza, official Manjunath Shetty, and other members were part of the delegation during the visit. The tour aims to strengthen coastal management strategies and ecological protection efforts in Karnataka through insights gained from Tamil Nadu's conservation initiatives and research collaborations.

MLA launched ₹30 lakh road upgrade at Kadri Gudde

MLA said project improves ward infrastructure, addressing poor roads, easing commuting, and supporting local development efforts

MANGALURU

MLA Vedavyasa Kamath performed the ceremonial groundbreaking for a road improvement project near Kadri Gudde in the 30th Kodialbail Ward under the Mangaluru City Corporation limits. The Public Works Department has sanctioned ₹30 lakh for the development works aimed at upgrading local road infrastructure in the area.

Speaking at the event, Kamath highlighted the sustained efforts of former corporator and ex-Mayor Sudhir Shetty, along with other local representatives, who had consistently pursued approval for the road upgrade. He noted that the required funding has now been secured and construction has commenced, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and ease movement for residents.

The MLA said the project forms part of broader efforts to enhance civic infrastructure within city wards, particularly in areas where road conditions have been a long-standing concern. He added that improved roads would benefit daily commuters, reduce travel difficulties, and support local development.

Former corporator Manohar Shetty Kadri, booth presidents Sadashiva, Praveen Bhat, Jeevan, Jayaraj Shetty, Vasudev, Devarani, Kadri Jagadish, and several local party workers were present during the programme. They welcomed the launch of the project and expressed hope for timely completion.

Local residents also acknowledged that the road had been in need of repair for some time, and the upgrade is expected to address issues related to potholes, drainage, and access during monsoon seasons. Authorities indicated that the works will be executed in phases under supervision of the Public Works Department to ensure quality standards.

The event concluded with assurances from local leaders that similar infrastructure improvements will be prioritised in other parts of the ward based on need and public feedback.

BIAL dividend boosts Karnataka govt revenue share

M.B. Patil said BIAL declared ₹3 per share dividend after strong performance, first since 2017–18, with past profits reinvested in airport expansion

BENGALURU

Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) has handed over a dividend of ₹16.49 crore to the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC), marking a significant financial return for the state government undertaking.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah received the dividend cheque from BIAL Chairman Hari Marar during a formal event held in Bengaluru on Monday. Senior officials, including Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and KSIIDC Managing Director Khushbu Goel, were present.

Officials said KSIIDC holds a 13 per cent equity stake in BIAL and received ₹16,49,93,400 as dividend for the financial year 2025–26. After tax deductions, the net amount received by the corporation stands at ₹14.84 crore.

Minister M.B. Patil said BIAL declared a dividend of ₹3 per share for the year, reflecting its strong financial performance. He added that this is the first dividend payout since 2017–18, as profits in earlier years were reinvested in expansion and infrastructure development of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru.

He explained that the reinvestment helped strengthen airport capacity and improve services for passengers. Officials also noted that KSIIDC represents the Government of Karnataka in the company's shareholding structure.

BIAL's ownership includes the Airports Authority of India with 13 per cent, FIH Mauritius Investments Limited with 30.36 per cent, and Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited with 43.64 per cent. The government said such dividends will support future development and industrial growth across the state and strengthen long-term infrastructure investment planning further ahead.

Commissioner K N Ramesh said Bengaluru South aims for cleanliness with citizen participation and awareness drive in Gurappanapalya

COMMISSIONER CHAIRS MEETING ON GARBAGE DISPOSAL ISSUES

BENGALURU

A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner K N Ramesh to improve solid waste management and find permanent solutions to garbage problems in the city corporation limits.

Representatives from citizen groups and voluntary organizations attended the meeting and shared suggestions to strengthen waste collection and management systems in different local areas under the corporation.

Women of Wisdom in JP Nagar were appreciated for achieving 100 percent waste segregation and creating awareness through wall paintings, and similar practices were suggested for apartments and PG accommodations across the city.

Officials suggested installing CCTV cameras at garbage blackspots, improving monitoring and introducing evening waste collection to prevent roadside dumping of waste in sensitive areas.

It was proposed to establish Waste Management Learning Centres in every ward and to involve schools and colleges to educate students about proper waste handling practices.

Corporation officials proposed CSR support from companies to install composting units, shredding machines and waste collection vehicles and also recommended making GPS tracking mandatory for all garbage vehicles.

Commissioner K N Ramesh said the corporation is committed to making Bengaluru South City Corporation clean and garbage free with citizen participation and announced an awareness programme in Gurappanapalya in June.

Officials said Information Education and Communication activities under the Suchimitra programme will be strengthened to increase public awareness on waste management through media campaigns in theatres television and community programmes across wards.

Commissioner K N Ramesh reiterated that the corporation aims to transform Bengaluru South City Corporation into a clean and garbage free urban space through active citizen participation strict enforcement of waste segregation rules and improved monitoring of collection systems. He said action will be taken against violators dumping waste in blackspots and garbage vehicles without GPS tracking will face penalties. He added that citizen cooperation is essential for success of these programmes and requested residents to follow segregation rules at source. He also directed officials to prepare for a large awareness event at Gurappanapalya in the first week of June to promote cleanliness drive across all wards across the entire corporation limits.

Rohan Corporation donates advanced medical equipment to Wenlock Hospital

MANGALURU

Rohan Corporation, a leading real estate company in Mangaluru, organised the "Evening of Gratitude 2026" at The Ocean Pearl, bringing together civic leaders, medical professionals, and industry representatives to highlight corporate social responsibility initiatives in the city.

The event was attended by Karnataka Legislative Council member Ivan D'Souza as the chief guest, along with senior officials from Wenlock District Hospital, including District Surgeon and Superintendent Dr. D.S. Shivaprakash. Managing Director Dr. Rohan Monteiro and Director Dion Monteiro also participated in the programme.

As part of its CSR initiative, Rohan Corporation formally handed over advanced medical equipment to Wenlock Hospital. The donation included multi-para monitors used for continuous patient vital sign tracking and a complete ophthalmic outpatient department unit aimed at improving eye care services for patients in the region.

Speakers at the event highlighted the growing role of private companies in strengthening public healthcare infrastructure. Ivan D'Souza praised the transformation of Mangaluru from a modest coastal town into a rapidly developing urban center, noting that contributions from organizations like Rohan Corporation are supporting this progress.

Dion Monteiro presented the company's long-term vision of positioning Mangaluru as a major investment destination by attracting IT firms, Global Capability Centres, and multinational offices. He said such developments would help diversify the city's economic base and create new employment opportunities.

Dr. Rohan Monteiro reaffirmed the company's commitment to community welfare and announced that more CSR-driven healthcare and development projects are planned in the coming years.

The programme also included a panel discussion on "Mangaluru's Growing Position in India's Real Estate Sector," where industry experts Ankush Sayal, Deepti Malik, Hem Bathra, and Navdeep Singh Khanuja shared insights on urban growth trends, infrastructure expansion, and investment potential.

Lokayukta survey raises concerns in Malnad region villagers

KOPPA

The recent Lokayukta survey in Bhandigadi village of Koppa taluk has created concern among residents of the Malnad region. Officials inspected alleged encroached government land following a complaint, triggering anxiety among small and medium farmers dependent on agriculture.

Locals say land disputes, forest laws, and wildlife pressure have already made farming difficult in this hilly region. The intervention of Lokayukta officials is seen as both necessary enforcement and a source of additional fear in villages. Many farmers argue that decades-old cultivation patterns are now being questioned, leading to uncertainty over land ownership rights.

The region has seen rising conflicts between neighbors, often turning personal disputes into broader community issues. Government rules aimed at protecting forest land have also become controversial due to inconsistent implementation on the ground. Authorities are now verifying records and conducting surveys to determine actual encroachment and ensure legal compliance. Some villagers believe personal rivalries are influencing complaints, escalating tension across the community and affecting harmony.

Farmers have appealed for balanced action that protects livelihoods while preserving environmental laws in sensitive areas. Local organizations are urging the administration to consider compensation and clearer land records to reduce disputes. The situation highlights the delicate balance between conservation efforts and rural development in Malnad's fragile ecosystem.

Experts suggest that transparent surveys and community consultation could help resolve long-standing conflicts peacefully over time. The Lokayukta's role is viewed differently by stakeholders depending on trust in governance and past experiences.

Mangaluru corporation urges property tax payment before on May 31

MANGALURU

The Mangaluru City Corporation has urged property owners in Mangaluru to clear pending property tax dues before May 31 to avail a five per cent rebate announced by the Karnataka government for the 2026–27 financial year. Civic officials said the government has extended the deadline for claiming the rebate within municipal corporation limits. The Corporation Commissioner appealed to residents to make timely payments to avoid penalties and interest charges. Officials added that improved tax collection will support urban development and civic infrastructure projects across the city.

MONSOON READINESS DRIVE

BNCC conducts monsoon flood safety mock drill

BENGALURU

Under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D K Shivakumar and direction of Commissioner and Chairman of Disaster Management Authority of Bengaluru North City Corporation Shri Pommala Sunil Kumar a monsoon preparedness mock drill was conducted at Yelahanka Lake to strengthen disaster readiness across the city corporation limits.

As part of pre monsoon preparedness officials from corporation control room staff NDRF SDRF telecom department Fire and Emergency Services and other agencies were instructed to remain on 24x7 alert for disaster response operations.

During the drill NDRF and SDRF teams demonstrated flood rescue operations including contact rescue and non contact rescue techniques for safely saving people trapped in water.

They also demonstrated CPR techniques and explained the Golden Hour importance for saving lives of children women and men during emergencies.

NDRF Commander Akhilesh Kumar Chaugale said that awareness on disaster response is essential as monsoon approaches Karnataka and Kerala and people should learn basic rescue skills before emergency teams arrive.

He added that NDRF and SDRF teams are being deployed in sensitive coastal and flood prone regions to ensure quick response during monsoon season.

Officials instructed clearing of storm water drains roadside drains and gratings and ensuring immediate response through control rooms and coordination groups during heavy rains.

Corporation aims to ensure public safety smooth traffic movement and effective flood prevention through continuous monitoring coordination and emergency preparedness measures across its limits.

Chief engineers Raghavendra Prasad and Yamuna along with disaster management consultants superintending engineers executive engineers and officials from NDRF SDRF Home Guards BSF Fire and Emergency Services BESCOM and telecom service providers including Vodafone Idea Airtel Jio and BSNL participated in the mock drill and reviewed preparedness arrangements across Bengaluru North City Corporation limits ensuring coordination between departments for faster emergency response during monsoon season and reinforcing public safety systems through regular training exercises awareness programmes equipment checks communication drills and continuous monitoring of vulnerable flood prone locations in the city while stressing the importance of community participation and timely reporting of incidents across district.

QUICK READ

Delhi Assembly Speaker joins 'Metro Monday' to save fuel

New Delhi

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta joined the Metro Monday campaign to save fuel and travelled to Vidhan Sabha from his residence at Tilak Marg in public transport, an official said. Beginning his journey from the Supreme Court Metro Station, Speaker Gupta interacted with commuters and highlighted the importance of adopting eco-friendly modes of travel in daily life. During his journey, Gupta changed trains at Rajiv Chowk Metro Station and proceeded towards Vidhan Sabha Metro Station, from where he reached the Delhi Legislative Assembly, the official said in a statement. Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for fuel conservation, the Metro Monday initiative encourages citizens to use public transport and save fuel.

3 arrested for running online IPL betting racket

New Delhi

Three persons using betting applications/software, including Sky Live Pro, Data Calculation Ver 1.0 and Skyexch for operating an online IPL betting racket were arrested in East Delhi's Madhu Vihar, a Delhi Police official said on Monday. Manish Jain, 50, resident of Madhu Vihar, Abhishek Jain,26, resident of Jagat Puri, and Arpit Gupta, 40, resident of Mandawali, were arrested on Saturday, and two laptops, two tablets, nine mobile phones, and a notepad containing handwritten betting entries were seized, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (East District) Rajeev Kumar. An FIR, Number 193/26, under sections 3/4/5 Delhi Public

Falta by-poll result upsets TMC's Diamond Harbour applecart

New Delhi

Falta in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district made it to the national lexicon last month when a political contest, framed almost like a cinematic clash with a Singham vs. Pushpa narrative, caught the people's imagination. The Singham label was for Ajay Pal Sharma, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer known for his tough policing style and reputation as an encounter specialist in Uttar Pradesh. He was deployed as an Election Commission police observer in the Falta Assembly constituency, where he has been involved in addressing electoral issues and ensuring fair elections, though he has sometimes been called controversial. Pushpa, drawn from the Telugu

MP CM offers prayers at Bhojshala after historic HC verdict

Yadav said Dhar will be transformed into a major tourism hotspot of the state, which will also help generate employment for locals.

DHAR

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday visited the historic Bhojshala complex in Dhar district and offered special prayers to Goddess Vagdevi on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra.

Yadav performed prayers amid heightened security arrangements and the presence of a large number of Bharatiya Janata Party workers, local residents, and devotees. Senior police and administrative officials were deployed around the premises to maintain law and order during the visit.

Speaking after the prayers, the Chief Minister said the state government would work towards transforming Dhar into a major tourism and cultural hub. He stated that the recent court decision had opened new opportunities for the development of the historic town and surrounding region.

Yadav said several initiatives would be undertaken to improve tourism infrastructure, expand educational opportunities, and generate employment for local residents. According to him, the government intends to present Dhar in a renewed form by promoting its cultural, historical, and spiritual significance.

The Chief Minister also connected the proposed development plans with the state government's ongoing Jal Ganga Conservation Campaign, which focuses on water conservation and environmental sustainability across Madhya Pradesh. He said the state was playing a leading role in water conservation efforts through large-scale public participation and district-level initiatives.

The Bhojshala complex has remained the subject of a long-standing and sensitive dispute between Hindu and Muslim communities. Hindus consider the site an ancient temple and educational centre dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, established during the reign of Raja Bhoj of the Parmar dynasty in the eleventh century. Historically, the site was known for Sanskrit learning and cultural activities.

Muslims, on the other hand, have referred to a section of the complex as the Kamal Maula Mosque and had traditionally offered Friday prayers there for many decades under an earlier administrative arrangement.

The dispute over the site has frequently attracted legal, political, and social attention in Madhya Pradesh. In its May 15 ruling, the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court observed that historical records and evidence indicated that the complex was originally a Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.

The judgment has generated widespread political and public discussion across the state. Supporters of the ruling view it as recognition of the site's historical and cultural identity, while authorities continue to maintain heightened vigilance to ensure peace and communal harmony in the region.

Chhattisgarh-Delhi CMs explore joint development possibilities

NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai met Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday to discuss cooperation between the two BJP-ruled states and explore opportunities for sustainable development.

Following the meeting, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta shared details of the interaction through a message on social media. She described the meeting as positive and constructive, stating that both leaders held detailed discussions on multiple dimensions of development and cooperation between Delhi and Chhattisgarh.

According to Gupta, the two states discussed ways to promote sustainable development while strengthening collaboration on governance and public welfare initiatives. She said the cooperation between the states would contribute to accelerating the national objective of building a developed and self-reliant India.

The meeting comes at a time when several state governments are increasingly focusing on issues such as infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, public transport expansion, and resource conservation.

In a separate development during the day, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta once again used Delhi Metro and public bus services to travel from her residence to the Delhi Secretariat as part of the Monday Metro campaign. The initiative forms part of the broader Mera Bharat, Mera Yogdan campaign aimed at encouraging fuel conservation and greater use of public transport.

The two BJP-ruled states focused on sharing best practices in governance to align with the national vision of 'Viksit Bharat'

Sharing her experience, Gupta said she was encouraged to see more Delhi residents adopting public transport as part of their daily routines. She emphasized that every metro ride and bus journey contributes toward reducing traffic congestion, pollution, and fuel consumption, adding that even small efforts by citizens can create a significant national impact.

The Chief Minister had earlier used the Metro for commuting on May 18 as well, continuing her campaign to promote environmentally friendly transportation methods. During her journey, she interacted with fellow passengers and encouraged commuters to support public transport systems as a practical step toward environmental protection and fuel savings.

The campaign has gained importance amid rising global concerns over fuel prices and energy security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently urged citizens to reduce fuel consumption and increase the use of public transport and electric vehicles in light of disruptions caused by the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta also joined the Metro Monday initiative on Monday. According to officials, he travelled from his residence at Tilak Marg to the Vidhan Sabha using the Metro and interacted with commuters during the journey.

MHA approves Rs 196 cr for police modernisation in riot-hit Manipur

IMPHAL

The flagging-off ceremony was held at the 1st Battalion Manipur Rifles Parade Ground in Imphal in the presence of senior government officials, police personnel, and security offTicers.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Khemchand Singh said the state government remains committed to strengthening the police force and improving policing infrastructure in order to effectively respond to the prevailing security situation in Manipur.

He stated that no state or nation can maintain peace and stability without a strong and efficient police force. Referring to the ethnic violence that erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023, the Chief Minister praised police personnel for carrying out their duties with courage and dedication despite difficult and dangerous circumstances.

According to him, members of the Manipur Police have played a major role in preventing violence, maintaining public order, and supporting efforts aimed at restoring peace and normalcy across the state. He added that the addition of a large fleet of modern vehicles marked an important milestone in the history of the state police force.The newly inducted vehicles are expected to significantly improve mobility, logistics, and emergency response capabilities, especially in remote hill districts and sensitive areas. Officials said the enhanced transportation infrastructure would help police personnel respond more effectively during emergencies, security operations, and disaster situations.

The total fleet of 477 vehicles includes 100 Hero motorcycles, 39 Bolero B6 vehicles, 50 Bolero Neo vehicles, 74 Tata Yodha vehicles, 10 mine-protected vehicles, 20 Tata trucks, 30 Tata 407 vehicles, 20 Mahindra buses, 60 bullet-proof Rakshak vehicles, 19 water tankers, 50 Bolero Camper vehicles, and five HMR vehicles.

The Chief Minister also highlighted welfare measures undertaken for police personnel by the present government. He said ration allowances for police staff, which had remained unchanged for a long period.

Special branch officer dies in Bhojpur road accident

PATNA

A tragic road accident in Arrah claimed the life of Rajiv Ranjan, also known as Goldie, on Monday after a speeding private school bus allegedly ran over his motorcycle on the Bypass Road under the jurisdiction of the Town Police Station, Arrah in Bihar.

Rajiv Ranjan, 42, who was serving as an Assistant Sub-Inspector in the Bihar Police Special Branch and was currently posted in Patna, suffered critical injuries in the collision.

Locals immediately rushed to help and attempted to take him to the Sadar Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

According to eyewitnesses, the school bus driver fled immediately after the accident. The driver later parked the bus near a private bus stand before escaping from the scene. Police have since seized the bus and launched a search operation to trace the absconding driver.

Rajiv Ranjan was a resident of Ward No. 9 in Baligaon village under the jurisdiction of the Ayar Police Station.

He was the son of Ram Layak Singh. His sudden death has left both his family and the police department in deep shock.

Family member Anil Kumar Singh said that Rajiv's grandfather had passed away on May 19, and a Satlehan ritual ceremony was being conducted in the village on Monday.

After attending the ceremony, Rajiv Ranjan was returning to Patna on his motorcycle to resume official duty when the fatal accident occurred.

The incident has triggered grief and anger among local residents, many of whom have demanded the immediate arrest of the bus driver.

Locals described Rajiv Ranjan as a dedicated and sincere police officer whose untimely death has devastated his family.

Police officials from the Town Police Station have begun an investigation into the accident.

GOVT RELEASES REPORT AHEAD OF IIP 2022–23 SERIES LAUNCH ON JUNE 1

NEW DELHI

In a bid to help users better understand and assimilate the new IIP 2022–23 series ahead of its official launch on June 1, the government on Monday said it has released a detailed report of the Technical Advisory Committee on Base Year Revision of the All-India Index of Industrial Production (TAC-IIP).

The first IIP release will present index values starting from April 2023 onwards, including Quick Estimates of April 2026.

Along with the All-India General Index of the IIP, the release will also include sector-wise indices for Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, Electricity & Gas Supply and Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management.

In addition, it will provide manufacturing sector indices at the 2-digit level of NIC-2025, indices based on Use-based Classification and linking factor, all scheduled for release on June 1, 2026, according to Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

The item basket and weights have been revised to add relevant commodities and remove outdated ones, ensuring that each item or sector is assigned appropriate significance.

The revised basket consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups, said the ministry.

RUSH OF VISITORS

Cops tighten security around TN ministers' offices

CHENNAI

Police security has been strengthened across ministers' offices at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Fort St George following a sharp rise in the number of visitors meeting members of the newly-formed government, officials said on Monday.

With ministers beginning full-fledged administrative work after assuming office,

the Secretariat has been witnessing an unusually high influx of people from early morning until late evening, prompting authorities to deploy additional police personnel to regulate movement and prevent overcrowding inside the complex.

Officials said the increased security arrangements are primarily aimed at ensuring smooth functioning within the Secretariat as ministers balance administrative responsibilities, departmental review meetings and interactions with the public.

Over the past several days, ministerial chambers have witnessed long queues of visitors that included party functionaries, government officials, supporters, well-wishers and members of the public seeking appointments.

A large number of people have also been arriving to submit petitions, raise grievances and seek interventions on constituency and civic issues.

Several newly appointed ministers have also been receiving supporters and cadres.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ–562114 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಆಫೀಸ್ ಪಕ್ಕ, ಹಳೆ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 27931221,
Email- itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com
Web Site. www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ.ನ.ಸ.ಹೊ/ಕಂ.ಶಾ./ಪಿ.ಆರ್/01 /2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–05–2026

ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳ ಇ-ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಸ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಒಡೆತನದ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣಗಳ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು **ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: (1) ನಆಇ/301/ಜಿಇಎಲ್/2017 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.07.2019 ಮತ್ತು (2) ಸಂ.ನಅಇ/254/GEL/2021/ಇ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04–11–2022 ರ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳು, ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಜ್ಞಾಪನ ಪತ್ರದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಜಿನಕೋಬ/(ಪಿ2)/ವಿವ/ಹೊನ/153/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–10–2025 ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–07–2021ರ ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 42 ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26– 12–2022 ವಿಷಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 17ರ ತೀರ್ಮಾನದಂತೆ** ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳ ಮರುಪಾವತಿ ಠೇವಣಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಮೀಸಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು 12 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಬಾಡಿಗೆ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17–06–2026 ರಂದು ಮದ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಇ–ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ** ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಮಳಿಗೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಹರಾಜು (E-Procurment) ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ವಿವರಗಳು

ಕ್ರಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ/ಸಮಯ
01	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಾಜು ನೋಟೀಸನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಖಾತರಿಪಡಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ/ಸಮಯ	**25–05–2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ **08–06–2026** ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
02	ಇ–ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ಮೌಲ್ಯಮಾಪನ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ/ಸಮಯ	**10–06–2026**ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ರಿಂದ **15–06–2026** ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
03	ಬಿಡ್ಡಿಂಗ್ ಲೈವ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ/ಸಮಯ	**17–06–2026** ರ ಮದ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 2.30 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
04	ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ/ಸಮಯ	**19–06–2026**ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/809/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

CBI to take over Twisha Sharma death case

Bhopal

The probe into the death of Twisha Sharma is set to be handed over to the CBI, with the agency already dispatching a team to Bhopal to take charge of the investigation, officials said on Monday.

Twisha, a 33-year-old model-turned-actor, was found dead at her marital home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on May 12. The CBI will take over the case from the state police and gather all evidence and documents linked to the investigation. Hearing the matter on Monday, the Supreme Court said it would ensure a fair, independent, and impartial probe into the case. Police had earlier registered an FIR under Sections 80(2), 85, and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, along with relevant provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, naming Twisha's husband, Samarth Singh, and Giribala Singh.

Manipur riot: '187 social media accounts blocked over

Imphal

Manipur Director General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Singh on Monday said that as many as 187 social media pages and accounts have been blocked for sharing allegedly sensitive, violent and communal posts since June 2023. The DGP also said around 5,406 problematic social media posts have been identified, out of which 3,200 were taken down. Singh said the action was taken in coordination with the state IT Department and the Centre's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Speaking at a programme in which 477 police vehicles, including armoured cars and two-wheelers.

NIA raids 3 places in J&K over terror funding links

NEW DELHI

Tightening the noose around the banned Jama'at-e-Islami (JeI) organisation over alleged terror activities, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out raids at three places in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) for terror funding. The agency is probing the separatist and secessionist activities carried out by the banned organisation under UAPA. "The searches, conducted at three locations in Srinagar and Shopian districts of Kashmir, led to the recovery of several incriminating financial documents and electronic gadgets suspected to be related to the activities of JeI and its various trusts/ associations in J&K," the agency said.

During investigations, the federal probing agency.

Satheesan blasts Left-govt for Munambam land row

He accused the govt of creating administrative confusion that led to tensions between two religious sections.

KOCHI

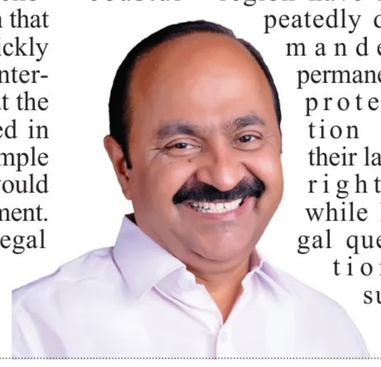
Kerala Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Monday strongly criticised the previous Left government over the controversial Munambam land dispute, accusing it of creating administrative confusion that intensified tensions between two religious communities.

Speaking to reporters after a Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Satheesan alleged that the previous government had knowingly taken steps that complicated the sensitive land dispute before leaving office. According to him, the inclusion of the Waqf Board in the UMEED portal during the final days of the earlier administration significantly escalated the controversy surrounding land ownership claims in Munambam.

The Chief Minister stated that once the land details were entered into the portal, it effectively strengthened the claim that the disputed land belonged to the Waqf Board. He argued that this move also reflected the earlier government's position that the people currently residing in the area were occupying the land illegally.

Satheesan accused the previous administration of deliberately creating a situation that could not be resolved quickly through administrative intervention. He remarked that the issue had been structured in such a way that even a simple and immediate solution would become difficult to implement.

Despite the ongoing legal and political controversy, the Chief Minister assured residents that the present government would not allow any eviction of families living in Munambam. He emphasized that no one would be removed from their homes and stated that the government would pursue all available legal measures to safeguard the interests of local residents.



The Munambam land dispute has remained a politically sensitive issue in Kerala for several years. Residents in the coastal region have repeatedly demanded permanent protection of their land rights, while legal questions surrounding Waqf claims over the property continue to generate political and communal tensions.

Satheesan also alleged that certain political groups were attempting to exploit the issue for political gain. He accused the Sangh Parivar of trying to create communal divisions in the coastal region by using the dispute to polarize communities.

At the same time, he claimed that the Communist Party of India (Marxist) was also attempting to derive political advantage from the sensitive matter.

The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the dispute could ultimately be resolved through lawful and constitutional means without adversely affecting the people currently residing in the area.

BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over prediction of Modi govt's fall

NEW DELHI

'The Congress leader's comments were aimed at provoking unrest at a time when the nation requires unity and collective responsibility'

The BJP on Monday strongly criticised Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi over his recent remarks suggesting that the Narendra Modi-led government would fall within a year.

Addressing reporters, Gaurav Bhatia said the world is currently going through a period of uncertainty marked by economic instability and crises in several countries.

He claimed that despite these global challenges, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown resilience and maintained economic strength.

According to Bhatia, India's economy has remained comparatively stable because of the policies and leadership of the central government during difficult international conditions.

He stated that the country had responded collectively to global challenges, including rising energy concerns, with citizens participating in efforts such as fuel conservation initiatives promoted by the government.

The BJP spokesperson strongly objected to Rahul Gandhi's remarks regarding the future of the government, calling them irresponsible and politically motivated.

He alleged that the Congress party was attempting to spread confusion and create instability through what he described as a political toolkit.

Bhatia accused Gandhi of repeatedly making statements that, according to the BJP, undermine democratic institutions and damage India's image internationally. He claimed that the Congress leader's comments were aimed at provoking unrest at a time when the nation requires unity and collective responsibility.

During the press conference, Bhatia used sharp language while attacking the Congress leader, referring to him as a Bhasmasur of Indian politics and sarcastically suggesting that Gandhi had now become an astrologer by predicting the fall of the government. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi's political approach was destructive and immature.

The BJP leader also criticised Gandhi for remarks allegedly made during visits abroad, where he had raised concerns regarding democracy and governance in India. Bhatia questioned whether such statements were appropriate for a Leader of the Opposition and accused Gandhi of displaying hostility toward the country's elected leadership.

According to the BJP spokesperson, political leaders should focus on supporting national interests during periods of global crisis rather than making statements that could weaken public confidence or create political instability.

The Bill proposes a common civil legal framework governing marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships for all residents of the state.

Assam tables UCC Bill in assembly

GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Monday formally introduced the Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026, in the state Legislative Assembly, marking a significant political and legal development in the state.

Speaking to reporters after introducing the legislation in the Assembly, Atul Bora said the primary objective of the Uniform Civil Code is to bring all citizens under one common civil law system. According to him, Assam, like the rest of India, is home to people from diverse religious, linguistic, and social backgrounds, and the government believes a unified legal framework would help reduce inequalities created by different personal laws.

Bora said that at present, separate personal laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and other civil matters exist for different religious communities. He argued that this system has contributed to social divisions and legal inequalities among citizens.

According to the minister, the proposed Uniform Civil Code seeks to eliminate such disparities by ensuring that all citizens are governed under a common set of civil laws. He added that the legislation is based on the constitutional principles of equality and secularism.

The minister also referred to an earlier commitment made by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in the Assembly. Bora stated that the Chief Minister had promised during his previous tenure that if the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government returned to power, the Uniform Civil Code would be introduced during the first session of the newly elected Assembly.He said the government has fulfilled that promise by formally introducing the Bill at the beginning of its new term.Bora further emphasized that the legislation is expected to provide significant benefits to women by guaranteeing equal rights and legal safeguards. According to him, certain provisions under existing personal laws contain elements of discrimination and inequality, particularly affecting women in matters related to marriage, inheritance, and family rights.

The minister expressed confidence that the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code would help ensure equal legal status for women alongside men and strengthen social justice within the state.

He also maintained that the Bill aligns with constitutional values and the broader vision of equal treatment before the law. According to Bora, the Constitution of India promotes equality and secular principles, and the proposed legislation reflects those ideals. The introduction of the Uniform Civil Code Bill is expected to trigger extensive political debate both inside and outside the Assembly.

Kalyan orders audit of pollutants entering Godavari

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Monday directed officials to conduct a comprehensive audit of polluting waste and effluents flowing into the Godavari River and review their current management protocols.

After a visit to parts of the Godavari River affected by pollution, he asked officials of the East Godavari district to submit a detailed report, outlining measures taken thus far and a clear and concrete plan of the works to be undertaken.

Pawan Kalyan, who also holds the environment portfolio, emphasised that the Coalition Government is firmly resolved to organise the upcoming Godavari Pushkarams scheduled next year under the central theme of a pollution-free Godavari.

As part of his visit to Rajamahendravaram, Pawan Kalyan embarked on a boat journey

Bodies of 2 missing youths fished out from Dhar river

BHOPAL

Two youths, who were reportedly employees of a private cement company, drowned in the deep waters of the Narmada River while bathing at the Semalda Narmada Ghat in Manawar tehsil of Dhar district, officials said on Monday.

The incident happened on Sunday evening. After a prolonged rescue operation lasting nearly 15 hours, divers recovered the bodies of both young men on Monday morning. The deceased have been identified as Pooran Yadav and Dinesh Yadav, both residents of Kotputli in Rajasthan, police officials said.

Govt assures no fertiliser shortage ahead of Kharif season

NEW DELHI

According to Aparna S. Sharma, Additional Secretary in the Department of Fertilisers, the country's total fertiliser assessment for the current year stands at 390.54 lakh metric tonnes, while existing stock levels have reached 200.12 lakh metric tonnes.

She noted that the current stock position represents more than 51 percent of annual requirements, significantly higher than the normal benchmark level of around 33%.

Sharma stated that both domestic production and imports have remained robust during the post-crisis period, helping maintain strong overall availability across the country. She said approximately 95 lakh metric tonnes of fertiliser have been produced domestically so far, while imports amounting to nearly 22.60 lakh metric tonnes have further strengthened supply levels.

In total, around 117.6 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers have been added to the country's overall availability base, ensuring adequate reserves for agricultural needs during the upcoming cultivation cycle.

The government also confirmed that sufficient quantities of key fertilisers required for the kharif season have already been secured. This includes around 13.5 lakh metric tonnes of diammonium phosphate and approximately 9 lakh metric tonnes of complex fertilisers containing nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Officials said the availability of raw materials required for fertiliser production also remains comfortable.

The Department of Fertilisers is continuously monitoring the supply chain and reviewing raw material availability to avoid disruptions in domestic production.

Providing category-wise details, Sharma said urea production within the country.

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/NDRF/SDRF/2026-27/00594 Date: 21.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents
(Total: 1 Work)
(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **27-05-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **29-05-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **30-05-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **01-06-2026 @ 16.00.00**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)**

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/163/26-27 dt. 25.05.2026

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hemavathy Canal Investigation Division,
Hebburu, Tumkur Taluk & District, Phone : 0816-2957008,
E-mail : eehcidhebbur@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 02/2026-27 Date : 21-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On the behalf of the **Managing Director, C.N.N.L., Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, C.N.N.L., Hemavathi Canal, Investigation Division, Hebburu** invites Short Term Tender on "Turn Key" basis from Eligible contractors for **01 Work of Amounting Rs. 2835.62 Lakhs.**

Starting Date for Submission of Bids is Date : 22-05-2026 and Last Date for Submission of Bids is Date : 30-05-2026 till 4.30 p.m.

Further details can be Obtained form this Office and through the Internet at the Website Address **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
HCL Division, C.N.N.L., Hebburu.**

DIPR/Tumakuru/16/Manipal/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.03/2026.27, Dated: 22.05.2026

Tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Chikkamagaluru District works as per KW-3 maximum tender amount is Rs.80.65 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.80.26 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 01-06-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/165/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐಎ/2026–27

'MATTER OF GREAT SATISFACTION'

Twisha's family satisfied about SC stepping into case

NEW DELHI

As the Supreme Court heard the case related to the death of former actor-model Twisha Sharma, her family's lawyer Anurag Srivastava on Monday said the apex court's intervention has brought great satisfaction to the family, which had earlier struggled to get its concerns heard.

Speaking to IANS, Advocate Srivastava said: It was a very sensitive matter. There was a time when no one was listening to Twisha's family, and they were running from

place to place. This is a matter of great satisfaction for us. Whatever developments took place in the last eight to ten days, the Supreme Court has taken cognisance of them.

He further stated that the decision to hand over the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was a positive step taken by the state government.

The state government took the initiative and recommended handing over the case to the CBI, which has already been done.

The family's concern was that the case should be transferred to the CBI as soon as possible, as the matter was still with the SIT in Bhopal, he said.

Srivastava added that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of the state government, assured the Supreme Court that all remaining procedural formalities and notifications required for transferring the case would be completed at the earliest.

He assured the court that they would try their best to complete the process today itself and hand over the matter to the CBI, he said.

According to Srivastava, the Supreme Court also directed the CBI to immediately begin the investigation and start recording statements from witnesses from both sides.

The Supreme Court believes that the CBI will take up the matter fairly and ensure justice.

The court also said that all evidence should be handed over to the CBI so that there is neutrality and transparency in the investigation, he added.

Referring to Twisha's mother-in-law and accused Giribala Singh, Srivastava said the court also took note of the statements being made in the media.

QUICK READ

'Aus cops did no threat assessment before Bondi attack'

SYDNEY

Australian state police did not prepare a threat assessment for the event where the Bondi Beach mass shooting occurred and denied a request from the Jewish community to station officers there, an inquiry into the attack heard on Monday.

The comments came during public hearings in the wide-ranging inquiry known as a Royal Commission that focus on events prior to last December's Bondi attack, which killed 15 attending a Jewish Hanukkah celebration at the famed Sydney beach. A New South Wales police officer said no threat assessment was prepared for the event, but agreed in hindsight that one would have been appropriate. I see no reason why a threat assessment could not be completed for that event, said Assistant Commissioner Leanne McCusker, adding that such an exercise would have enabled security arrangements that matched the threat level.

'Magnetic mines found on tanker at Ust-Luga port'

MOSCOW

Several NATO-produced magnetic mines had been detected on a tanker in Russia's Baltic Sea port of Ust-Luga, Russia's Investigative Committee said on Monday. The committee said the mines were found by divers during an inspection of the hull of the tanker Arrhenius, which arrived from Belgium's port of Antwerp to load liquefied petroleum gas. Russia has beefed up safety measures in its ports following suspected acts of sabotage aimed at undermining its energy infrastructure. Last year, Russia ordered divers to inspect ships in its ports, after suspected attacks on four oil tankers. The Suezmax tanker Koala ran aground at Ust-Luga after a blast in its engine room in February 2025. According to LSEG ship tracking data, Arrhenius is Liberia- flagged and is managed by the Maple Mariner Holding in the UAE.

Netanyahu admits difficulty influencing Trump on Iran

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told confidants in private conversations that Israel has little ability to influence Donald Trump's decision-making on Iran as the U.S. president negotiates a deal in the nearly three-month-old war, two sources said. Netanyahu's comments, described to Reuters by two Israeli officials with knowledge of the conversations, come as Israel has largely been left out of talks to reach an initial deal to halt a war that began with joint U.S.-Israeli bombardment. Both the U.S. and Iran have played down hopes for an imminent breakthrough in talks, and they remain at odds over Iran's nuclear ambitions, Tehran's demands for the lifting of sanctions and Israel's war in Lebanon with Hezbollah militants.

Iran-US play down hopes for imminent breakthrough in war

'The US ill continue giving negotiations every opportunity to succeed before deciding on any further course of action'

DUBAI

The United States and Iran on Monday signalled a quick resolution to their three-month-long conflict remains unlikely despite ongoing diplomatic discussions aimed at reducing tensions in the Gulf region.

United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington remains committed to diplomacy but also made it clear that alternative measures remain under consideration if talks fail.

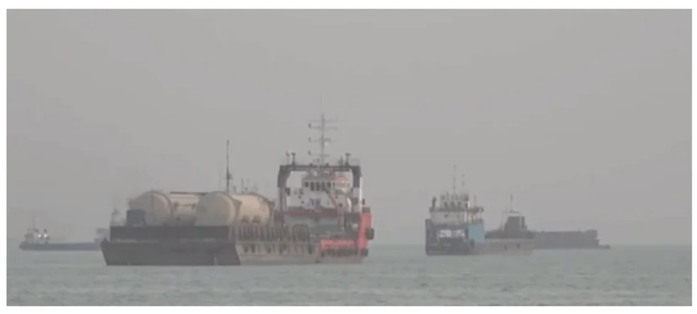
Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Rubio said the United States would continue giving negotiations every opportunity to succeed before deciding on any further course of action.

Rubio stated that discussions had produced a solid proposal aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz and creating conditions for a significant time-limited negotiation process on Iran's nuclear activities. He expressed cautious optimism that both sides might still be able to reach an agreement capable of lowering tensions in the region.

United States President Donald Trump also tempered expectations regarding the negotiations. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said any eventual agreement would need to be great and meaningful, otherwise there would be no agreement at all. He had earlier stated that he instructed American negotiators not to rush into a deal with Tehran.

Iran also adopted a cautious tone regarding the progress of the talks. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei said several topics had been resolved during discussions, but emphasized that this did not mean a final agreement was close. According to Baghaei, the proposed memorandum of understanding currently under discussion contains 14 points mainly focused on ending the conflict and lifting the United States naval blockade in the Strait of Hormuz.

Under the proposed arrangement, Iran would reportedly take steps to ensure safe maritime transit through the strategic waterway in exchange for easing military pressure and ending the blockade. The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most important shipping routes for global energy supplies, making stability in the region a major international concern.



Baghaei further explained that the present negotiations are not directly focused on Iran's nuclear programme.

Instead, nuclear discussions would begin during a separate 60-day negotiation period if the broader framework agreement is accepted by both sides.

Trump has repeatedly stated that his primary objective is to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons using its enriched uranium programme. Iranian authorities, however, continue to deny allegations that they are pursuing nuclear arms and insist that their nuclear activities are intended for peaceful purposes.

Meanwhile, Trump reiterated that the United States naval blockade on Iranian shipping in the Strait of Hormuz would remain fully operational until any agreement is formally finalized, verified, and signed by both parties.

Ex-SNP chief pleads guilty to embezzling $540,000

LONDON

Prosecutors stated that Murrell diverted party funds into his personal accounts and used the money to finance an expensive lifestyle beyond his means

Former Scottish National Party chief executive Peter Murrell has pleaded guilty to embezzling more than £400,000 from the party over a period spanning more than a decade.

Peter Murrell entered a guilty plea on Monday, admitting to embezzling £400,310.65 from the Scottish National Party between August 2010 and January 2023.

The amount was slightly lower than the original charge filed against him during the investigation. Prosecutors stated that Murrell diverted party funds into his personal accounts and used the money to finance an expensive lifestyle beyond his means.

According to details presented in court, the misused funds were spent on several vehicles, a motorhome, and products from luxury brands including Estee Lauder and Harrods. Authorities said the purchases demonstrated a clear abuse of trust by a senior figure entrusted with managing party finances.

Murrell's guilty plea comes after years of investigation by Police Scotland into money raised by Scottish independence supporters in 2017. The donations had reportedly been collected for a specific purpose linked to future independence campaigning and were expected to remain protected for that use. Investigators later alleged that the funds had been redirected for other purposes, prompting widespread concern among party members and supporters.

The scandal also drew attention because of Murrell's close political connections. He is the former husband of Nicola Sturgeon, the former First Minister of Scotland and one of the SNP's most influential leaders. Sturgeon resigned unexpectedly in 2023, shortly before she was arrested as part of the same investigation into party finances. She was later cleared of any wrongdoing in March last year.

Police Scotland Assistant Chief Constable Stuart Houston strongly criticized Murrell's conduct, saying he had shown utter contempt for the trust placed in him as chief executive of a major political party. Houston added that Murrell had abused his privileged position within the Scottish political establishment to support a lavish lifestyle using party money.

The case has proven deeply embarrassing for the SNP, a party that has long campaigned on transparency and public trust while leading the movement for Scottish independence. Political analysts believe the scandal could continue to damage the party's credibility as it attempts to rebuild public confidence ahead of future elections.

Iran, Taiwan tensions set to dominate Shangri-La Dialogue

SINGAPORE

The ongoing conflict involving Iran, growing tensions surrounding Taiwan, and concerns over the United States' strategic commitments in Asia are expected to dominate discussions at this year's Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's leading defence and security forum.

The annual gathering, scheduled from May 29 to May 31 in Singapore, will bring together defence ministers, military officials, intelligence leaders, diplomats, and security experts from across the world at a time of mounting geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability.

The Shangri-La Dialogue is regarded as one of the most influential security forums in the Asia-Pacific region, offering world leaders and defence officials an opportunity to discuss regional and global security challenges. This year's event comes amid increasing concerns over the widening conflict involving Iran and its potential impact on global stability, energy supplies, and international trade.

Vietnamese President To Lam is scheduled to deliver the keynote address on the opening evening of the forum. However, much of the attention is expected to focus on United States Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, who will address delegates while Washington continues efforts to manage the escalating crisis involving Iran.

The conflict has already placed significant pressure on the global economy. Iran has effectively shut down the Strait of Hormuz since fighting began on February 28, severely disrupting one of the world's most critical maritime trade routes. The strait normally carries nearly one-fifth of global oil and gas shipments, making any disruption a major threat to international energy markets.

United States President Donald Trump recently stated that his administration would not rush into any agreement with Iran despite ongoing diplomatic contacts. Trump also confirmed that the United States blockade on Iranian shipping through the Strait of Hormuz would continue until a formal agreement is finalized and verified.

The situation has raised concerns among several Asian allies regarding the United States' ability to maintain its commitments in the Indo-Pacific region while also managing growing crises in the Middle East and Europe. Questions are likely to be directed at Hegseth over whether Washington risks becoming overstretched as it balances military, diplomatic, and economic challenges across multiple regions simultaneously.

Analysts believe Asian countries are increasingly worried about the unpredictability of United States foreign policy and the possible consequences for regional stability.

'Trump call would be positive; no planning talks have taken place'

TAIPEI

A call between the U.S. and Taiwanese leaders would be a positive thing but it is up to President Donald Trump to take the initiative and the two sides have not had any planning talks, Taiwan's foreign minister said on Monday.

A call between the two leaders would be unprecedented and risk roiling Washington's ties with Beijing, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory. U.S. and Taiwanese presidents have not spoken directly since Washington shifted diplomatic recognition to Beijing from Taipei in 1979.

Trump said again last Wednesday he would speak with Taiwan President.

Philippine rescuers race against time a day after deadly building collapse

ANGELES

Philippine rescuers were racing against time on Monday in a search for possible signs of life more than 24 hours after the collapse of a building under construction in the city of Angeles, with crews carefully removing rocks and surrounding debris by hand.

The painstaking manual operation around 80 km (50 miles) north of the capital, Manila, underscored the difficulty of the rescue effort, carried out under scorching heat, with authorities unable to rely on excavators and other machinery for fear that the unstable structure could shift further and bury any survivors deeper beneath the wreckage and rubble.

As the delicate search operations stretched into a second day, families waiting near the disaster area voiced growing frustration and despair, saying they were receiving no information about the fate of their missing loved ones.

My youngest child keeps asking, but I do not have answers, said 47-year old Lea Casilao.

Myanmar military steps up fight for rare earth area, border routes

MYANMAR

Myanmar's military has launched a series of fresh offensives across key border regions in an apparent attempt to regain control over strategic trade corridors and resource-rich territories held by ethnic armed groups.

The military's latest campaigns have primarily targeted Kachin State, Chin State, and parts of Karen State, according to rebel group representatives and regional analysts. These areas are not only important border zones but also contain valuable natural resources and major trade routes linking Myanmar with neighboring countries.Kachin State, located along the Chinese border, is especially significant because of its deposits of heavy rare-earth elements, minerals that are essential for the production of advanced technologies including electric vehicles, electronics, and defense equipment. Control over these mineral-rich territories is considered strategically important for both economic and military reasons.

In Chin State, which borders India, and Karen State near Thailand, the military is also attempting to secure major transportation and communication corridors that have increasingly fallen under the influence of ethnic armed organizations in recent years.

State-run newspaper Global New Light of Myanmar reported that military chief Ye Win Oo recently told soldiers that government forces had regained control of Falam town in Chin State and secured an important route connecting Mandalay and Myitkyina in Kachin State. These areas are regarded as key logistical links for trade and military operations.

Political analyst Sai Kyi Zin Soe said the military's strategy appears focused on restoring control over the country's main trade gateways and transportation networks. According to him, the military leadership.

LATVIAN LAWMAKER MOVES TO FORM NEW GOVT

RIGA

Latvian opposition lawmaker Andris Kulbergs of the United List said on Monday he aimed to form a four-party majority government after the ruling coalition collapsed this month over national security concerns, though a final deal has yet to be struck.

The Baltic states, close allies of Kyiv and members of NATO, have reported repeated incursions by Russian drones in recent months as Ukraine steps up attacks on targets inside Russia, including near the Baltic Sea.

Prime Minister Evika Silina stepped down after a dispute within her coalition over the government's handling of the drone incursions, triggering its collapse just five months before a scheduled general election.

We have now reached a division plan, Kulbergs, who has been tasked by President Edgars Rinkevics with forming a new cabinet, told a press conference.

The way we reached this solution, a division among four partners, was straightforward. We had to proceed based on the simplest possible principles – four partners.

Ukraine strikes kill 6 in Russia

KYIV

Ukrainian strikes have claimed the lives of six people, including two children, in Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine as well as in Russia's border regions of Belgorod and Bryansk, local officials have confirmed.

Ukraine attacks followed a day after Russia launched an attack on Kyiv using a powerful hypersonic Oreshnik ballistic missile for a third time, killing at least four people and injuring about 100.

The local Moscow-installed administration stated.

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Pak Shi'ites deported from UAE amid Iran war fallout

DUBAI

Hundreds of Pakistani Shi'ite Muslims deported from the United Arab Emirates during the ongoing Iran conflict have returned home without their belongings, savings, or employment, sparking serious concern among rights groups and community leaders.

In villages across Pakistan's rural Chakwal district, families are struggling to cope after the sudden return of relatives who had spent years working in the United Arab Emirates. Many of the deportees say they were removed abruptly, leaving behind personal possessions, bank savings, and stable jobs that supported their families back home.

According to information reviewed by Reuters, visa status records and flight details were verified for 103 Pakistani nationals who identified themselves as Shi'ite Muslims deported from the UAE. Reuters also interviewed 24 individuals who all claimed they were unable to recover their luggage or access their financial savings before being placed on flights to Pakistan along with dozens of other deportees.

A database compiled by the Pakistani Shi'ite political organization Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen reportedly lists around 7,500 Pakistani Shi'ites deported from the Gulf nation since February 28, the date when the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran.

The organization's spokesperson, Mohsin Abidi, stated that the actual number of deportations could be significantly higher.

Community leaders claim the pace of deportations increased sharply after Iran responded to military attacks by launching missile and drone strikes targeting the UAE. The growing regional conflict has heightened tensions across the Gulf and raised concerns about the treatment of Shi'ite populations living and working in the region.

Messi Injury Scare Raises Concern Ahead of Argentina's WC Defence

Inter Miami star exits match early, alarming Argentina ahead tournament

MIAMI

Argentina captain Lionel Messi sparked concerns over his fitness ahead of the FIFA World Cup after leaving Inter Miami's Major League Soccer match against Philadelphia Union with an apparent leg injury.

The 38-year-old football icon was substituted in the 73rd minute after appearing to clutch the back of his left leg. Messi signalled to the bench that he could not continue and was immediately replaced before walking straight down the tunnel.

Inter Miami went on to register an entertaining 6-4 victory, but attention quickly shifted from the result to the condition of the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner. The club did not immediately provide details regarding the nature or severity of the injury.

The timing of the incident has intensified concerns in Argentina, with the World Cup set to begin in less than three weeks. Any prolonged absence for Messi would represent a major setback for the defending champions, who are aiming to retain the title they won in Qatar four years ago. The tournament is scheduled to kick off in Mexico City on June 11, with Argentina opening their campaign against Algeria in Kansas City on June 16.

Sunday's match was also Inter Miami's final fixture before Major League Soccer pauses for the World Cup, leaving limited time for assessment and recovery before Argentina's preparations begin.

Although Messi has not officially confirmed his participation in the tournament, he is widely expected to feature in what would be a record-equalling sixth World Cup appearance. His presence remains central to Argentina's hopes of another successful campaign.

Head coach Lionel Scaloni is expected to announce Argentina's World Cup squad next week. The team will then travel to the United States for warm-up matches against Honduras in Texas on June 6 and Iceland on June 9. Messi has enjoyed another productive season with Inter Miami and continues to be the focal point of both club and country despite approaching his 39th birthday.

For now, Argentina supporters will anxiously await updates from Inter Miami's medical staff, hoping the injury proves minor and does not jeopardise the nation's World Cup title defence.

Haaland Wins Third Golden Boot in Four Seasons

Manchester City striker continues remarkable scoring dominance across English football.

MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland added another milestone to his growing list of achievements by securing the Premier League Golden Boot for the third time in four seasons, reaffirming his status as one of world football's most prolific goal scorers.

The Manchester City striker finished the 2025-26 Premier League season with 27 goals, comfortably topping the scoring charts despite missing City's final match of the campaign, a 2-1 defeat to Aston Villa.

Haaland ended the season five goals ahead of Brentford forward Igor Thiago, who finished second with 22 goals. No other player in the league managed to reach the 20-goal mark, underlining the Norwegian's dominance in front of goal.

The award marks Haaland's third Golden Boot since arriving in England. He first won the accolade during the 2022-23 season when he shattered records with 36 goals, the highest tally in a single Premier League campaign. He followed that feat by finishing as the league's leading scorer again in the 2023-24 season with 27 goals.

Last season, the Golden Boot was claimed by Liverpool star Mohamed Salah, who scored 29 goals. Haaland has now reclaimed the award and further strengthened his reputation as one of the most consistent strikers in modern football.

Since joining Manchester City, Haaland has transformed the club's attack with his extraordinary finishing ability, physical presence and remarkable consistency. His goals have played a crucial role in City's domestic and European successes over the past four years.

The achievement also comes at an important moment in the striker's career as he prepares for his first FIFA World Cup appearance with Norway. Norway's qualification for the tournament has generated considerable excitement, with Haaland expected to spearhead the nation's attack on football's biggest stage.

At just 25 years old, Haaland continues to rewrite records and establish himself among the elite forwards of his generation. With three Golden Boots already to his name and many years ahead of him, the Norwegian appears poised to remain a dominant force in English football and international competition for the foreseeable future.

Djokovic Downs Home Favourite in French Open Opener

PARIS

Twenty-four-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic demonstrated his trademark resilience and experience by overcoming a slow start and a partisan crowd to secure a hard-fought first-round victory at the French Open.

The 39-year-old Serbian rallied from a set down to defeat French wildcard Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 in a gripping contest lasting two hours and 51 minutes on Court Philippe-Chatrier. Playing in his record 82nd Grand Slam tournament, Djokovic faced a difficult challenge against the 22-year-old home favourite, who enjoyed overwhelming support from the Paris crowd. Mpetshi Perricard's powerful serve and aggressive play troubled the Serbian throughout the opening set, which the Frenchman sealed with consecutive aces, including one clocked at 223 kmph.

"Playing a French player on centre court at Roland Garros is never easy," Djokovic said after the match. "The crowd gets involved and you definitely feel the pressure."

Despite struggling to create opportunities early on, Djokovic gradually found his rhythm. After failing to convert several break points, he finally broke serve late in the second set to level the match and shift the momentum firmly in his favour.

The turning point came after nearly two hours of intense competition. Once the match was level, Djokovic's superior fitness, experience and consistency began to wear down his younger opponent.

Mpetshi Perricard, ranked 80th in the world, appeared to lose energy as the match progressed, while Djokovic grew stronger with every set.

Antonelli Extends F1 Dominance with 4TH Straight Victory in Canada

MONTREAL

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli continued his remarkable rise in Formula One by claiming his fourth consecutive victory at the Canadian Grand Prix, capitalising on a dramatic engine failure that forced Mercedes teammate George Russell out of contention. The 19-year-old Mercedes star emerged victorious after an intense wheel-to-wheel battle with Russell that dominated the opening half of the race at Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

The two drivers repeatedly exchanged the lead in a thrilling contest, pushing their cars to the limit and coming perilously close to contact on several occasions. The battle was ultimately decided when Russell suffered an engine failure after 30 laps, ending his hopes of victory and clearing the path for Antonelli to secure another memorable win.

"It was a really fun battle with George. We were both on the limit, and it was a shame his race ended that way because it could have been an incredible fight until the finish," Antonelli said after the race.

The victory further strengthened Antonelli's grip on the championship. Having won races in China, Japan and Miami after Russell's season-opening triumph in Australia, the young Italian now leads the standings by 43 points after five rounds of the 22-race season.

Tearful Kostyuk Overcomes Emotional Ordeal to Reach French Open Second Round

PARIS

Ukrainian tennis player Marta Kostyuk produced one of the most courageous performances of her career at the French Open after overcoming deep emotional distress to reach the second round at Roland Garros.

The 15th seed defeated Oksana Selekhmeteva 6-2, 6-3 on Sunday, but revealed afterward that she had learned earlier in the day that a missile strike had narrowly missed her parents' home in Ukraine.

Speaking during an emotional post-match interview, the 23-year-old fought back tears as she described the difficult circumstances she faced before stepping onto the court.

According to Kostyuk, a missile destroyed a building just 100 metres from her family's residence. Her mother, sister and great-aunt were among 17 people in the house at the time of the attack, but fortunately escaped unharmed.

"This was one of the most difficult matches of my career," Kostyuk said. "I spent part of the morning crying because I couldn't stop thinking about what might have happened."

The Ukrainian admitted she felt physically sick after receiving the news and struggled to focus on tennis. Despite the emotional burden, she decided to compete, drawing inspiration from the resilience shown daily by people in her war-torn homeland.

After securing victory, Kostyuk received warm applause from spectators. As she addressed the crowd, she became emotional once again while explaining how Ukrainians continue to persevere despite immense hardships.

"My biggest example is the Ukrainian people," she said. "I woke up and saw people continuing with their lives and helping others despite everything they face."

Kostyuk's victory was one of several notable results on the opening day of the tournament. In the evening session, 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic defeated Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard in four sets to register another milestone victory.

Elsewhere, second seed Alexander Zverev advanced comfortably, while former US Open champion Emma Raducanu suffered an early exit.

Kostyuk will next face American Katie Volynets for a place in the third round. However, regardless of what follows, her first-round triumph will be remembered as a testament to extraordinary resilience and determination in the face of personal anguish and uncertainty.

Fernandes Sets New Premier League Assist Record on Final Day

BRIGHTON

Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes etched his name into Premier League history by setting a new single-season assists record during United's final league match against Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Portuguese midfielder registered his 21st assist of the campaign, surpassing the previous record of 20 jointly held by Arsenal legend Thierry Henry and former Manchester City star Kevin De Bruyne.

Fernandes achieved the milestone in the 32nd minute when his perfectly delivered corner was headed home by teammate Patrick Dorgu, giving Manchester United a 1-0 lead at the Amex Stadium.

The moment sparked celebrations among the visiting players, who rushed to congratulate their captain after he became the most prolific creator in Premier League history over a single season.

The achievement came just a day after Fernandes was named the Premier League Player of the Season, capping an outstanding individual campaign in which he consistently drove Manchester United's attack with goals, assists and leadership.

Having entered the final round level with Henry and De Bruyne on 20 assists, Fernandes needed only one decisive contribution to claim the record outright. He delivered in trademark fashion, producing another pinpoint set-piece that highlighted the vision and technical quality that have defined his season.

Throughout the campaign, Fernandes has been the creative heartbeat of Manchester United, combining his passing range, intelligence and work rate to influence matches across the league. His record-breaking tally underlines the extent of his contribution to the club's success this season.

The milestone places Fernandes alongside some of the Premier League's greatest playmakers. Henry's 20-assist season for Arsenal was long regarded as one of the finest creative campaigns in English football, while De Bruyne matched the feat during his peak years at Manchester City.

Now, Fernandes stands alone at the top.

At 31, the Portugal international continues to perform at the highest level and remains one of the most influential midfielders in world football. His latest record serves as further proof of his importance to Manchester United and his ability to produce decisive moments on the biggest stage.

With 21 assists and a Player of the Season award, Fernandes has completed one of the most memorable individual campaigns in Premier League history.

AI-Generated Fan Anthems Take Over World Cup Build-Up

MONTREAL

As excitement builds ahead of the FIFA World Cup, football fans are turning to artificial intelligence to create viral songs supporting their national teams, sparking a new trend across social media platforms.

AI-generated anthems dedicated to countries such as France, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina and Germany have amassed millions of views and streams on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram. Many of the fan-made tracks have gained more online traction than some of the tournament's official musical releases.

The trend began with the French anthem "Imbattables," created by AI music producer Crystalo.

Its popularity inspired a wave of similar songs featuring catchy beats, player name chants and tributes to star footballers such as Kylian Mbappe, Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Brazilian producer Guilherme Maia, known as M4IA, said AI helped him develop parts of his anthem but stressed that human creativity remained central to the production process.

"AI opens up exciting possibilities, but there must still be respect for authorship and copyright," Maia said.

The phenomenon has also reignited debate within the music industry.

Experts argue that while AI can quickly generate engaging content, questions remain about ownership, artist compensation and the use of copyrighted material to train AI models.

Jason Palamara, a music technology expert at Indiana University, noted that AI-generated music often lacks the complexity and texture of traditionally produced songs. However, he acknowledged that many listeners are drawn more to the novelty and energy of the tracks than to artistic depth.

Music rights specialist Morgan Hayduk said fan anthems represent a clear use case for AI-generated music, especially for sporting events where simple, catchy songs can unite supporters.

Meena Breaks Nat'l Pole Vault Record, Secures Commonwealth Games Berth

RANCHI

Indian pole vaulter Dev Meena delivered a record-breaking performance at the Federation Athletics Championships, rewriting the men's national pole vault record and securing qualification for the Commonwealth Games.

In one of the most thrilling contests of the meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium, Meena cleared 5.45m to surpass the previous national record of 5.41m set earlier this month by his training partner Kuldeep Kumar. The two athletes pushed each other throughout the competition, both successfully clearing 5.45m before failing at 5.50m.

Meena was declared the winner on countback, having registered fewer total misses than Kuldeep.

The result earned both athletes coveted spots in India's Commonwealth Games squad.

"We did our best today and gave each other a good fight. We will continue to keep up our fight in order to improve further," Meena said after the event.

Kuldeep welcomed the healthy rivalry, saying, "We are still learning this technical sport and we will improve."

The championships also saw long jumper M. Sreeshankar return to top form, leaping 8.08m in his third attempt to clinch gold and qualify for the Commonwealth Games. His performance comfortably crossed the qualification mark of 8.05m.

In the high jump, Sarvesh Kushare cleared 2.28m to equal the meet record and book his place for the Games. He narrowly missed breaking Tejaswin Shankar's national record of 2.29m.

Elsewhere, veteran Olympian Sandeep Kumar was awarded the men's 10,000m race walk title after initial winner Nitin Gupta was disqualified for receiving assistance during the race.

Swara Lakshmi Nair Scripts History as B'luru's First Woman International Master

BENGALURU

Nineteen-year-old Swara Lakshmi Nair has created history by becoming Bengaluru's first Woman International Master (WIM) and only the second woman from Karnataka to earn the prestigious title.

Swara achieved the milestone after drawing with Slovenian International Master Domen Krumpacnik in the ninth round of the Ptuj International Masters Tournament earlier this month, completing the requirements needed for the title.

The achievement marks a significant moment for Karnataka chess, following the success of Isha Sharma, who became the state's first Woman International Master in 2019. Expressing her delight, Swara described the accomplishment as both rewarding and motivating.

"It's a great feeling. Being the first from Bengaluru and only the second from Karnataka is very empowering. I have worked hard for this, and it gives me confidence to pursue my future goal of becoming a Grandmaster," she said. Swara's journey to the title has been built on consistent performances over the past year. She secured her first WIM norm at the Sardinia World Chess Festival Open A in May 2025 after defeating Switzerland's Gut Rafael in the eighth round. During the same event, she also crossed the important 2200 Elo rating mark.

Her second norm came at the Grand Hotel Kielce Open A tournament in Poland in July 2025.

QUICK READ

SIDBI must evolve from lender to 'market maker': FM

Mumbai

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that standard products cannot serve non-standard businesses as the minister urged the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to redesign lending models according to the unique business cycles of MSMEs and startups. Addressing an event here, the Finance Minister said SIDBI's role must expand beyond that of a lender to becoming a market maker and risk-sharing partner for India's MSME ecosystem. SIDBI's role must now expand from being only a lender to becoming a market maker and risk-sharing partner for India's MSME and startup ecosystem, FM Sitharaman stated.

Ethanol-based stove cheaper than LPG: Gadkari

New Delhi

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has unveiled an indigenous ethanol-based cooking stove technology that he said can produce cooking flames at a lower cost than commercial LPG cylinders, while also announcing a Rs 40-crore initiative to promote scientific temperament among young Indians. Speaking at an event in Nagpur, Gadkari said the new technology uses a blend of ethanol and water to generate flames suitable for cooking purposes. By mixing 7 per cent ethanol in water, stove-like flames are generated, and it is cheaper than cooking gas. It is indigenous to our country, the minister said.

Rajasthan key to India's critical mineral demand

One of the most significant developments is unfolding in the Siwana Ring Complex located in Balotra district

JAIPUR

Rajasthan, traditionally recognized for its rich cultural heritage, tourism, handicrafts, and desert landscapes, is rapidly transforming into a key pillar of India's strategic resource and industrial security.

One of the most significant developments is unfolding in the Siwana Ring Complex located in Balotra district. The massive geological formation, spread over nearly 750 square km, is an ancient volcanic caldera that has recently attracted national attention due to the discovery of valuable critical minerals and rare earth elements.

Geological surveys conducted in the region have identified substantial deposits of Rare Earth Elements, Heavy Rare Earth Elements, and other strategic rare metals across several exploration blocks. The Union Ministry of Mines has already assigned detailed technical evaluation work to specialized agencies for three major blocks within the complex, indicating that the exploration process has moved into a more advanced stage.

The discoveries are considered highly significant because many of the identified minerals have direct applications in advanced technology and defense industries. Minerals such as Niobium, Zirconium, and Hafnium are regarded as essential materials for sectors including aerospace engineering, missile technology, nuclear energy systems, superconducting equipment, robotics, microelectronics, and electric vehicle manufacturing.

These resources have become increasingly important globally as countries compete to secure stable supplies of critical minerals required for semiconductors, clean energy technologies, batteries, and defense production. India currently depends heavily on imports for several of these materials, making domestic discoveries strategically valuable for long-term economic and national security planning.

Experts believe the reserves in Rajasthan could significantly strengthen India's self-reliance goals under the National Critical Minerals Mission. The mission aims to build secure domestic supply chains for strategic minerals and reduce vulnerability to global market disruptions and geopolitical pressures.

In addition to mineral exploration, western Rajasthan has also witnessed the discovery of new natural gas reserves in Jaisalmer, further enhancing the state's role in India's energy security framework. The combination of critical mineral wealth and energy resources is expected to attract large-scale industrial investments and advanced manufacturing projects in the coming years.

Recognizing the strategic importance of these developments, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has directed state officials to speed up work related to the Siwana project. The government has also appointed a dedicated nodal officer to coordinate with central agencies involved in exploration and development activities.

'India's ethanol blending expansion reducing crude oil dependence'

NEW DELHI

India's growing focus on ethanol blending and renewable energy development is playing a crucial role in reducing the country's dependence on imported crude oil, former Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Chairman and Managing Director Krishnakumar Gopalan said on Monday.

Speaking about India's evolving fuel and energy strategy, Gopalan noted that nearly 85% of the country's crude oil requirement is currently met through imports. This heavy dependence on foreign oil supplies makes the Indian economy highly sensitive to international geopolitical developments and sudden changes in global crude prices.

According to Gopalan, the government recognized the importance of transitioning towards alternative energy sources at an early stage and has since been working closely with public sector oil companies to reduce risks associated with high import dependence.

The govt recognized the importance of transitioning towards alternative energy sources and has since been working closely with public sector oil companies

One of the key initiatives in this direction has been the introduction of ethanol blending in petrol. India has already implemented a 20 percent ethanol blending target, which is aimed at lowering crude oil consumption while also supporting domestic agricultural and biofuel industries. Gopalan said efforts are underway to further accelerate the blending programme in the coming years.

He explained that ethanol blending represents a significant step toward reducing India's reliance on imported crude oil. In addition, the country has been rapidly expanding investments in renewable energy sectors including solar power, wind energy, and green hydrogen technologies.

Gopalan also pointed to emerging plans for hydrogen retail outlets as part of India's broader clean energy transition. The development of hydrogen infrastructure is being viewed as an important future component of sustainable transportation and industrial energy use.

Despite global uncertainty and fluctuations in energy markets, Gopalan praised Indian oil marketing companies for successfully maintaining stable fuel supplies across the country. He said instances of fuel shortages have remained extremely limited and were mostly confined to localized disruptions.

According to him, oil companies have managed supply chains efficiently even during periods of international volatility, ensuring uninterrupted fuel availability for consumers and industries.

Addressing the issue of fuel pricing, Gopalan revealed that oil marketing companies have absorbed a substantial share of rising global crude oil costs instead of passing the entire burden on to consumers. He estimated that current under-recovery on petrol stands at approximately Rs 13 to Rs 14 per litre, while diesel under-recovery is around Rs 38 per litre.

He added that recent easing in crude oil prices offers positive signs for the economy. Gopalan said ongoing international negotiations and improving market conditions could help stabilize fuel prices further and reduce pressure on oil companies as well as consumers.

'Mining agencies should speed up projects for India's mineral security'

NEW DELHI

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Monday instructed all mining and exploration agencies under the Ministry of Mines to accelerate pending projects and adopt a mission-oriented approach to strengthen India's mineral security and long-term strategic growth.

The review meetings involved senior officials from major institutions including the Geological Survey of India, the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, the Indian Bureau of Mines, and the Remote Sensing and Aerial Survey division. Discussions focused on speeding up mineral exploration activities, expanding scientific and technological capabilities, promoting sustainable mining practices, and improving coordination among institutions involved in resource development.

Addressing officials during the meetings, Kishan Reddy stressed that all organizations must ensure faster execution of projects and deliver visible outcomes. He said the Government of India expects speed, efficiency, and accountability from agencies working in the mining and exploration sector, especially at a time when critical minerals are becoming increasingly important for economic and strategic security worldwide.

He reviewed ongoing exploration projects and technological advancements related to critical and strategic minerals such as Rare Earth Elements, lithium, nickel, cobalt, tungsten, vanadium, and Platinum Group Elements. These minerals are considered essential for industries including clean energy, electric vehicles, semiconductors, aerospace, telecommunications, and defense manufacturing.

Officials from various agencies presented updates on resource augmentation, mineral targeting, scientific surveys, geospatial technologies, and advanced exploration systems currently being implemented across the country. The discussions also covered efforts aimed at strengthening India's self-reliance in strategic mineral supply chains.

India's data centre sector revenue projected to touch $45.69 billion by 2033

NEW DELHI

India's data centre industry is entering a phase of accelerated expansion and the country's total data centre sector revenue is pegged to reach about $45.69 billion by 2033, a report said on Monday.

The report from KPMG in India said that the accelerated expansion of specialised infrastructure is driven by AI driven workloads, rising cloud adoption, widespread 5G rollout and data localisation requirements.

The AI optimised data centre market, valued at roughly $588.6 million in 2024, is projected to reach approximately $3.55 billion by 2030 at an estimated compound annual growth rate of 35.1 per cent.

The report added that the sector's principal challenge is no longer demand but the increasing complexity of delivering scalable, compliant, and operationally integrated infrastructure solutions.

Traditional infrastructure designs based on legacy air-cooling systems are proving inadequate for modern GPU intensive AI workloads, as AI ready facilities require specialised liquid cooling and high density power distribution.

The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023 is accelerating the need for local data residency infrastructure and compliant data processing architectures, the report noted.

India's data centre industry is moving into a new phase of accelerated growth driven by AI led workloads, cloud adoption, and evolving data localisation requirements, said KG Purushothaman, Head – Digital Solutions and National Leader – Artificial Intelligence, KPMG in India.

As infrastructure demand increases, the market will require integrated execution models that can combine engineering capabilities, AI readiness, regulatory understanding, and operational accountability to support large scale and future ready digital infrastructure development, he added.

The report highlighted that the market is increasingly shifting away from fragmented service provider models towards an integrated lifecycle partner approach that combines planning, building, deployment, operationalisation, and maintenance under a single accountability framework.

ESG considerations are increasingly influencing investment attractiveness, with operators focusing on renewable energy integration, efficient power usage, and sustainable infrastructure models.

GI-TAGGED CRAFTS FROM STATE TO FEATURE AT VIBRANT GUJARAT

VADODARA

Traditional handicrafts and GI-tagged products from Central Gujarat, including Ahmedabad's Sodagari Block Print, Mata ni Pachedi and Agates of Cambay, are expected to be showcased alongside industrial investment opportunities at the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Vadodara later this June.

The conference, scheduled for the last week of June, is being positioned as both an industrial and cultural platform for the region, with organisers highlighting products that have received Geographical Indication (GI) tags or are undergoing the registration process.

Officials said the initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' campaign and the broader 'Viksit Bharat@2047' vision, aimed at strengthening traditional industries and connecting local artisans with global markets.

Among the products to be featured is Ahmedabad Sodagari Block Print, a centuries-old hand-block textile printing tradition practised by artisans in the Jamalpur. The craft, associated with the Chhipa community, received a GI tag in 2024.

Mata ni Pachedi, a sacred textile art traditionally created by the Devipujak community, is also expected to feature prominently. The craft, which involves painting images of deities on cloth, is widely practised in Ahmedabad and Kheda districts and received GI recognition in 2023.

Other GI-tagged crafts from the region include Pithora Painting, a ritual mural art practised by Rathwa, Bhil and Bhilala tribal communities in Chhota Udepur and Panchmahal districts. Known for its vivid colours and symbolic imagery, the art form received a GI tag in 2021.

The conference will also showcase Pethapur Printing Blocks from Gandhinagar district, a wood-carving craft practised for more than 300 years and recognised with a GI tag in 2018. Agates of Cambay, the semi-precious stone craft associated with Khambhat in Anand district, will also be displayed. The craft, historically linked to the Harappan civilisation, received GI status in 2008.

Sankheda Furniture from Vadodara district, known for its lacquered maroon-and-gold finish and intricate teak wood craftsmanship by the Kharadi-Suthar community, is another key product expected to be highlighted. It also received a GI tag in 2008.

Officials said bead work from Dahod and Khambhat kites, both currently under the GI registration process, may also be exhibited during the conference.

Apart from cultural and handicraft expos, the VGRC will host vendor development events, reverse buyer-seller meets, trade exhibitions and sector-specific pavilions.

Army Hosp commissions modern radiotherapy tech

NEW DELHI

A Ring Gantry-based Linear Accelerator was commissioned into the Department of Radiation Oncology at Army Hospital Research & Referral, Delhi, to strengthen cancer care services and improve access to advanced radiotherapy for serving personnel, veterans and their dependents, an official statement said on Monday.

It is expected to enhance in-house treatment capacity for the significant patient load at the hospital, a release from the Ministry of Defence said.

The Linear Accelerator is capable of delivering modern radiotherapy techniques including Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy, Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy, Image-Guided Radiation Therapy, Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy and Stereotactic Radiosurgery. It enables precise delivery of radiation to tumour sites while minimising exposure to surrounding normal tissues, thereby supporting improved treatment outcomes and patient care.

WI-FI 7 GEAR PRODUCTION

India enters Wi-Fi 7 era as TP-link starts local manufacturing

NEW DELHI

India's digital connectivity ecosystem received a boost on Monday as TP-Link India announced the commencement of local manufacturing of its Wi-Fi 7 product portfolio in the nation, aligning with the government's push for domestic electronics production and next-generation telecom infrastructure.

The company said it has begun manufacturing Wi-Fi 7 devices in India with the Omada EAP770 enterprise access point, which is one of the early moves by a global networking brand to localise production of the new-generation standard following the Department of Telecommunications' decision to delicense the lower 6 GHz spectrum band.

Earlier in January, the government's notification opened up 500 MHz of spectrum in the 5925–6425 MHz band for licence-exempt usage.

Nearly 92 per cent of its product portfolio sold in India is already manufactured locally through domestic EMS partners, and the company aims to increase this level to 96–97 per cent over the next three years, according to TP-Link India.

The company stated that the latest move will strengthen India's position in the global networking supply chain and support the expansion of high-speed, low-latency connectivity required for cloud computing, AI-driven applications, Internet of Things (IoT) ecosystems and high-density digital environments.

Wi-Fi 7 technology is expected to significantly improve network capacity, reliability and performance, particularly in sectors such as education, healthcare, hospitality, retail and enterprise campuses, it added.

Sanjay Sehgal, MD and CEO, TP-Link India, said the localisation of Wi-Fi 7 products reflects the company's long-term commitment to India's digital infrastructure ambitions and the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

He added that the opening of the 6 GHz band marks a transformative phase for enterprise connectivity in India, with the company investing further in manufacturing capabilities, R&D and partner development.

The company noted that it will gradually expand its locally manufactured Wi-Fi 7 portfolio across indoor, outdoor and in-wall access points, with plans to serve both domestic demand and select international markets in the future.

RCB's Batting Firepower Meets GT's Bowling Might in IPL Qualifier 1

Both teams enter the knockout clash level on points, chasing finals berth

DHARAMSHALA

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will face Gujarat Titans (GT) in a high-stakes IPL 2026 Qualifier 1 on Tuesday, with a direct ticket to the final on the line. While both teams finished the league stage with 18 points from 14 matches, RCB secured the top position thanks to a superior net run rate.

The clash promises to be a fascinating contest between two of the most balanced sides of the season.

RCB have built their campaign around explosive batting and a significantly improved bowling attack, while GT have relied on a disciplined bowling unit backed by a formidable top order.

Led by Rajat Patidar, RCB repeatedly crossed the 200-run mark during the season and have benefited from the consistency of Virat Kohli at the top of the order. The return of Philip Salt adds further depth and aggression to the batting line-up. Their bowling, spearheaded by Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, has also delivered in crucial moments, helping the team defend totals and win tight contests.

RCB will take confidence from their familiarity with conditions in Dharamshala, where they registered an important victory over Punjab Kings earlier this month.

Gujarat Titans, captained by Shubman Gill, have surged into the playoffs on the strength of their relentless bowling attack. The top-order trio of Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler has provided stability and firepower, laying the foundation for several victories.

However, GT's biggest strength remains its bowling. Mohammed Siraj, Kagiso Rabada and Prasidh Krishna have consistently troubled opposition batters with the new ball, while Rashid Khan and Sai Kishore have effectively controlled the middle overs. The Titans enter the knockout match with momentum after crushing Chennai Super Kings by 89 runs in their final league fixture.

Several individual battles could shape the outcome. Kohli's duel with Rabada, Salt's aggressive approach against former RCB pacer Siraj, and the contest between Hazlewood-Bhuvneshwar and GT's top order are expected to be decisive.

With both teams packed with match-winners and separated only by net run rate, Qualifier 1 promises to be a thrilling battle between RCB's batting depth and GT's relentless bowling machine.

The match begins at 7.30 pm IST.

Parag's Brave Calls Power RR into IPL 2026 Playoffs

RR skipper's bold decisions and Archer's brilliance seal playoff berth

MUMBAI

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag credited a series of bold tactical decisions and instinctive leadership for his team's dramatic entry into the IPL 2026 playoffs after a convincing 30-run victory over Mumbai Indians.

The Royals posted a competitive 205 for eight before restricting Mumbai Indians to 175 for nine, securing the final playoff spot and eliminating Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders from the tournament.

Parag said he prefers trusting his instincts over statistics when making crucial decisions on the field.

"I've taken a lot of brave calls this season, that's how I like to lead. I thought only Jofra Archer could get Hardik Pandya, and that's what happened. I always trust my instincts in real-time situations," Parag said.

One of those decisions proved decisive as Archer was promoted up the batting order and responded with a quickfire 32 off 15 balls. The England pacer then starred with the ball, claiming three wickets for 17 runs, including the prized scalps of Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya, earning the Player of the Match award.

Parag admitted that while the result was satisfying, the team still had areas to improve. He explained that the decision to reshuffle the batting order was aimed at maintaining scoring momentum and ensuring experienced batters stayed longer at the crease.

The Royals skipper also revealed that he was not fully fit and had initially been advised to miss the match. However, he expressed confidence about returning for the playoffs and praised Archer and Ravindra Jadeja for their fighting spirit.

Rajasthan Royals Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara applauded the bowlers for executing their plans under pressure. He said the decision to promote Archer was a calculated gamble based on the all-rounder's ability to change games quickly.

Sangakkara also praised young spinner Yash Raj Punja, who impressed with two wickets against a strong Mumbai batting line-up.

Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya felt his side conceded 10 to 15 runs too many and paid the price for losing wickets regularly during the chase.

With momentum on their side, Rajasthan Royals now head into the playoffs believing they can challenge for the IPL 2026 title.

Haddin Hails Shreyas' Big-Match Temperament as Moody Questions Pant's Future

LUCKNOW

Punjab Kings assistant coach Brad Haddin has praised captain Shreyas Iyer's ability to rise to the occasion after the batter's maiden IPL century powered his side to a commanding seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026.

Shreyas produced a captain's knock at a crucial stage of the tournament, guiding Punjab to a comfortable win and strengthening their playoff ambitions. His innings also reinforced his reputation as a player who thrives under pressure.

Haddin described Shreyas as an outstanding leader whose greatest strength lies in embracing high-pressure situations.

"He's a tremendous leader. He reads the game well and genuinely cares for his players. What stands out most is his appetite for the big moments. He wanted to be the one who made the difference, and that's exactly what top leaders do," Haddin said.

The former Australian wicketkeeper added that Punjab's coaching staff had spent considerable time identifying areas where the team needed improvement after several narrow defeats earlier in the season.

"A lot of the matches we lost went down to the final over or even the final ball. We worked hard on recognising those key moments and responding better under pressure," he explained.

While Shreyas enjoyed one of the finest nights of his IPL career, the situation was markedly different for Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant, whose difficult season continued.

LSG's Global Director of Cricket Tom Moody admitted the franchise would carefully assess Pant's future as captain after a disappointing campaign. Pant struggled to make an impact both as a batter and leader, with Lucknow failing to meet expectations.

Moody suggested the pressures of captaincy may have affected Pant's performances with the bat.

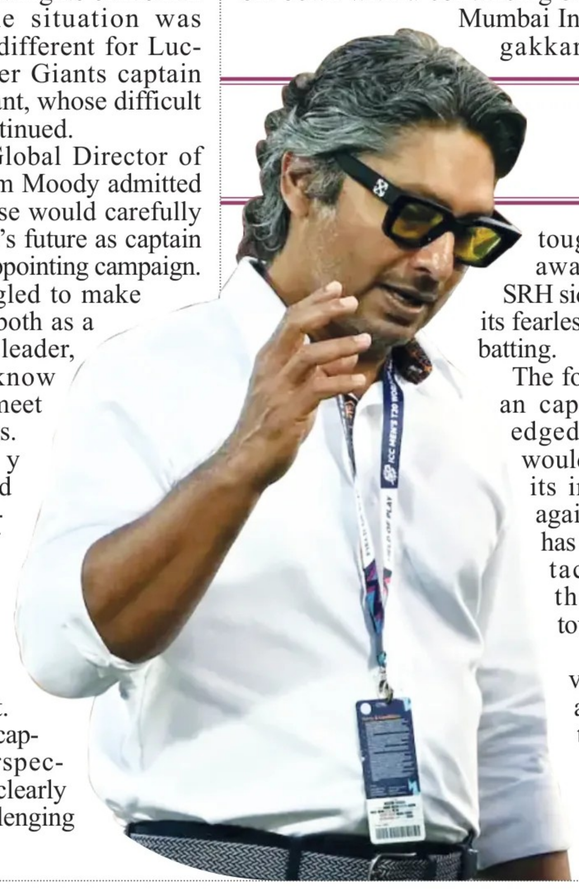
"From a captaincy perspective, it has clearly been a challenging season.

Sangakkara urges aggressive RR approach against SRH

MUMBAI

Rajasthan Royals Director of Cricket Kumar Sangakkara has urged his team to adopt a more aggressive approach when they face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL 2026 Eliminator at Mullanpur on May 27, following their playoff-clinching victory over Mumbai Indians.

The Royals secured the fourth and final playoff berth with a convincing 30-run win over Mumbai Indians, but Sangakkara believes a tougher challenge awaits against an SRH side renowned for its fearless and explosive batting.



Royals eye fearless cricket against formidable Sunrisers Hyderabad in high-stakes IPL Eliminator clash at Mullanpur on May 27.

The former Sri Lankan captain acknowledged that his side would have to raise its intensity levels against a team that has consistently attacked bowlers throughout the tournament.

"They are a very good side and have trusted their aggressive style all season. We know what we are going to face, and we have to be disciplined while also being aggressive with our lines and lengths," Sangakkara said.

He stressed that even defensive tactics such as slower balls and good-length deliveries must be executed with attacking intent against Sunrisers, who possess one of the most dangerous batting line-ups in the competition.

Sangakkara also provided an update on all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, revealing that the veteran is managing an injury and requires at least two days of rest before returning to full fitness. Despite the physical strain, Jadeja contributed significantly against Mumbai and once again demonstrated his value to the side.

The Royals mentor reserved special praise for captain Riyan Parag, who has faced criticism throughout much of his career. Sangakkara said the franchise remains fully committed to backing the young skipper and helping him develop as both a leader and a player.

"He has captained exceptionally well and has the respect of everyone in the dressing room. What people see from the outside is often not the real Riyan Parag. He is intelligent, determined and a very good young man," Sangakkara said.

He added that Rajasthan Royals view Parag as a long-term leadership prospect and will continue supporting his growth in the coming years. Sangakkara also confirmed that pacer Jofra Archer's decision to remain in the IPL instead of joining England's Test preparations was made jointly by the player, the England and Wales Cricket Board and the franchise, allowing him additional time to build his bowling workload.

Late IPL Replacements Gain Valuable Retention Eligibility for 2027 Auction

MUMBAI

Several IPL franchises have turned late-season injury replacements into a strategic tool for future squad planning, with recently signed players becoming eligible for retention ahead of the IPL 2027 auction.

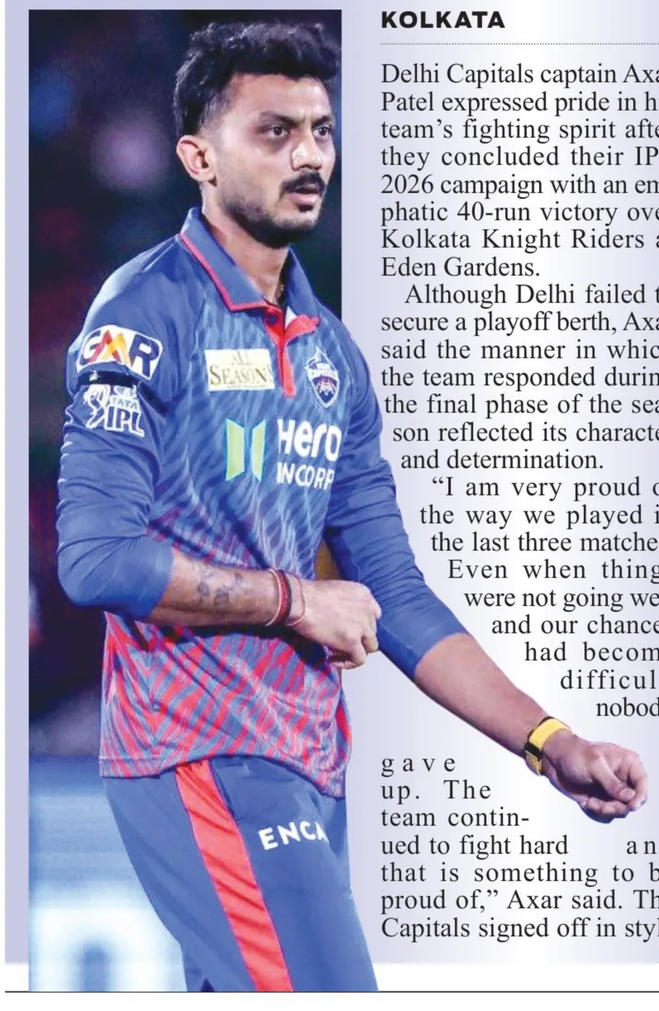
During the closing stages of the IPL 2026 league phase, three franchises combined to sign four replacement players. Although none of the recruits featured in their teams' final league matches, the signings could prove significant in shaping future squad compositions.

On May 23, Mumbai Indians announced the acquisition of Mahipal Lomror and Ruchit Ahir as replacements for Quinton de Kock and Raj Bawa respectively. Rajasthan Royals also brought in Emanjot Chahal to replace Ravi Singh. A day later, Kolkata Knight Riders signed Luvnith Sisodia as a replacement for injured pacer Matheesha Pathirana.

Under IPL regulations, if a player suffers an injury during or before a franchise's 12th league match, both the injured player and the replacement become eligible for retention before the next auction cycle. This provision has made replacement signings increasingly valuable beyond their immediate role as squad cover.

Although the official announcements came after the completion of the 12-match threshold, league officials confirmed that the injuries had been formally communicated to IPL authorities before the respective teams completed their 12th fixtures. As a result, all four replacement players will remain eligible for retention ahead of IPL 2027.

Axar Proud of Delhi's Fighting Spirit despite Disappointing IPL Campaign



KOLKATA

Delhi Capitals captain Axar Patel expressed pride in his team's fighting spirit after they concluded their IPL 2026 campaign with an emphatic 40-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens.

Although Delhi failed to secure a playoff berth, Axar said the manner in which the team responded during the final phase of the season reflected its character and determination.

"I am very proud of the way we played in the last three matches. Even when things were not going well and our chances had become difficult, nobody gave up. The team continued to fight hard and that is something to be proud of," Axar said. The Capitals signed off in style by successfully defending 203 for five. KL Rahul led the batting effort with a brisk 60, while Axar contributed 39 runs. David Miller and Ashutosh Sharma added valuable late runs to push the total beyond 200.

Kolkata Knight Riders began their chase positively, with Finn Allen and Ajinkya Rahane providing a solid start. However, the game turned decisively in Delhi's favour after Kuldeep Yadav struck twice in quick succession, removing Rahane and Rinku Singh. Axar further tightened Delhi's grip with the wicket of Tejasvi Dahiya before Mitchell Starc and Lungi Ngidi wrapped up the lower order.

KKR were eventually bowled out for 163 in 18.4 overs, handing Delhi a comprehensive victory.

Reflecting on the season, Axar said the team had learned valuable lessons from several narrow defeats.

TOPS Gets Expanded Role, Becomes Nodal Agency for 27 Sports

CHENNAI

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) has been expanded to oversee 27 Olympic sports disciplines, becoming the single nodal agency within the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Under a new order issued by Sports Secretary and SAI Director General Hari Ranjan Rao, TOPS will coordinate athlete support, funding, monitoring and engagement with National Sports Federations. The move aims to streamline operations ahead of major events such as the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

Gavaskar Defends Pant, Questions IPL's Post-Match Interview Timing

MUMBAI

Former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar has come to the defence of Rishabh Pant following the Lucknow Super Giants skipper's controversial post-match interview, arguing that the IPL's broadcast format may have contributed to the incident.

Pant came under criticism after using an expletive during a live television interview following Lucknow Super Giants' defeat to Rajasthan Royals. The wicketkeeper-batter, who endured a difficult IPL 2026 season both as captain and batter, was visibly frustrated after another disappointing result for his side.

Lucknow finished at the bottom of the points table, while Pant managed 312 runs in 14 matches, falling short of expectations in a campaign marked by inconsistent performances.

Gavaskar suggested that broadcasters should reconsider the practice of interviewing losing captains immediately after matches. According to him, players often require time to process emotions, especially after high-pressure defeats.

The batting legend pointed out that captains are frequently called for interviews within minutes of the final ball, leaving little opportunity to recover physically or mentally. He noted that the challenge is even greater for wicketkeeper-captains such as Pant, who spend long hours on the field in demanding conditions.

Gavaskar proposed that broadcasters initially focus on interviewing the Player of the Match or members of the winning team, while allowing the losing captain a few extra minutes before appearing on camera.

He argued that such a change could help prevent emotional reactions and ensure more measured responses during post-match interactions.

The former captain also described Pant as one of the most cheerful and expressive personalities in modern cricket, adding that the incident appeared to be an emotional lapse rather than a reflection of his character. "Even someone as naturally positive as Pant lost his composure in that moment," Gavaskar observed, stressing that players should be given sufficient time to gather their thoughts after intense contests.

The remarks come amid growing scrutiny of Pant's difficult season and questions surrounding his future leadership role at Lucknow Super Giants. However, Gavaskar's comments have shifted attention toward the pressures players face immediately after matches and whether current post-match media protocols require reconsideration.

As the debate continues, Gavaskar's intervention has sparked a broader discussion on balancing television demands with player welfare in the IPL.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Vihaan Media #85/J, Industrial suburb 2nd stage, Yeshwantpur Extension,Bangalore-560022, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.